



# SOCCER ACTION

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## HONOR FOR TOP MEN OF CROATIA AND OLYMPIC

### League title next for Curcio?

By  
LAURIE SCHWAB

Tony Curcio aims to cap a memorable season by helping Melbourne Croatia win the NSL championship.

"We'll win the title. I'm sure of it. Only injuries can stop us now," he said last week, after being selected to the national squad.

"The spirit at the club is great. All the players are helping each other. Everyone's talking about the title, and everyone knows exactly where everyone else is. They all want the ball. They're all extremely confident on the ball, and no one ever tries to hide. Our coach, Tony Vrzina, is doing heaps of ball work at training, and it's really paying off for us.

"The only bad thing is that someone has to sit on the bench, which is a problem when you have so many great players."

Curcio, 25, hasn't played representative soccer at any level, so his call — to the national squad means more to him than it would to most other players.

"I was asked to go to regional and State training when I was a kid, but my dad was busy and couldn't drive me, so I had to miss out," he said.

Curcio is a relieving teacher in the Tullamarine region of Melbourne. He previously taught at St. Albans and apart from being a top soccer player, he's also a highly talented artist.

He started with Coburg at the age of 12, later played in the State League for Altona City as a winger when he was 17, and then had four years as a winger and centre forward with Juventus, before breaking a leg in 1980.

The injury kept him out for nine months, before he switched to Croatia for \$3500 in 1981. At Croatia, he played at right back until switching to the sweeper's position this year.



Croatia's Tony Curcio (right) gets away from Stuart Stevenson of Heidelberg.

Curcio's Croatia team-mate Tommy Cunningham makes a welcome return to the national squad from which he had to withdraw due to injury in 1980, after playing 13 games.

Vlatko Belic, the powerful midfielder of Footscray J.U.S.T., also is a welcome addition to the squad. He was in the national youth squad a few years ago.

Sydney Croatia is delighted at having both Wally Savor and Graham Arnold included in the Soccerco squad. Both are strikers.

Australian squad for world tour camp in Sydney Sep 8-8: Terry Greeny, Anthony Franklin, Tony Pezzano, Steve O'Connor, David Ratcliffe, Graham Jennings, Alex Robertson, Mike O'Shea, Joe Watson, Peter Raskopoulos, Jim Patikas, Tom McCulloch, Ian Gray, John Kosmina, Marshall Soper, Wally Savor, Graham Arnold, Rod Brown, Phil O'Connor (NSW), Jeff Olver, Alan Davidson, Charlie Yanos, Peter Lewis, Steve Blair, Ken Murphy, Tom Cunningham, Charlie Egan, Tony Curcio, Vlatko Belic (Vic). The following injured players have until Oct 5 to prove their fitness: David Skeen, Arno Bertogna, Jim Cant, John O'Shea, Frank Farina.

### DAVOUR No. 1

Alan Davidson of South Melbourne Hellas has been voted Australia's most exciting player in a nation-wide poll conducted by "Soccer Action".

Thirteen soccer writers and broadcasters were asked to list their 10 top players, in order.

Last year's winner was Phil O'Connor who didn't figure in the voting this time because he has been injured since switching to Blacktown from Wollongong.

Davidson won the poll from Melbourne Croatia's exciting winger Josip Blazic. See details, page 3.



Alan Davidson (right) of SM-Hellas, in action for Australia against England. At left is England's John Barnes and at centre Steve O'Connor.

## SLADE, 48, PLAYS 800TH GAME!

John Slade played his 800th official senior game last Sunday.

Ent your heart out, Stanley Matthews! Slade, 48, is player-coach of Deakin University Blues in Geelong. His 800th game was against Geelong Olympic at Jarvis Oval in Geelong. He started his career with Hakoah (Vic).

In 1954 and in the past 30 years has played with Polonia, Box Hill, Brighton, Sandringham, Clayton, Corio, Geelong, Heidelberg-Alexander and Northcote.

His career highlights include one Dockerty Cup medal with Hakoah in 1954; three Harry Armstrong Cup medals (2 Hakoah, 1 Polonia); six championship medals, the last in 1983 with Deakin University; six best and fairest awards (Polonia,

Northcote, Geelong, Hakoah, Alexander, Brighton) and two best and fairest runner-up awards (Clayton, Geelong).

No has coached Brighton, Clayton, Corio, Barwon City, Geelong and Deakin and during his 30-year career he never has been shown the yellow nor the red card.

What's more, he has played in every division of Victorian soccer.

Deakin is in the Western Victorian Soccer Association.



VSF official Lew Stafaca (left) and Iain Whittom of Buffalo Sports shake hands on their sponsorship deal.

## BUFFALO GIVES VSF \$104,000

Buffalo Sports have increased their sponsorship of Victorian soccer to \$104,000.

The new agreement, ratified by the VSF board of management last night (Tuesday), will cover a two-year period starting from March, 1985.

It will be the third agreement struck by Buffalo Sports and the VSF. The initial agreement netted the VSF \$70,000 over a two-year period and the second agreement was for \$100,000 over two years.

The Buffalo Sports sponsorship is the largest federation sponsorship in Australia and the bulk of the money is distributed throughout the State, Metropolitan and Provisional Leagues and the juniors.

This recent agreement secures the future of the Buffalo Gold Cup until March 1987. Over \$14,000 will be used to

run the annual tournament which became the Buffalo Gold Cup this year after the Ampol company dropped its sponsorship of the event.

"I was really impressed with the Buffalo Gold Cup. I'm told by many knowledgeable soccer people in Victoria that it was one of the best pre-season tournaments ever run here," said Mr Iain Whittom, managing director of Buffalo Sports.

The VSF envisages 12 teams participating in next year's Buffalo Gold Cup — the eight Melbourne-based NSL clubs and the top four clubs in this year's State League.

These clubs will be provided with strips prominently displaying the sponsor's name and will be allowed to keep the strips.

Victorian junior State teams will benefit to the tune of \$3,000, which will be spent on equipment. The State, Metro and Provisional Leagues, Dockerty and State

Cup competitions will get \$50,000 out of the sponsorship package.

Junior soccer benefits further through the sponsorship providing for an annual training camp at Portsea for the State teams, and the junior regional championships also are provided for.

VSF publicity officer Lew Stafaca, engineered the Buffalo Sports sponsorship.

"We (the VSF) are encouraging clubs to use Buffalo products and I believe firmly that all club officials have an obligation to soccer in Victoria to support us. If they don't then we, as a Federation, have nothing to sell to a sponsor," he said.

"It now is a must for all clubs to wear the Buffalo logo on their strips. All club officials in this State must become fully aware of the immense benefits to the sport gained by the VSF's relationship with Buffalo Sports."

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

## Relegation unfair this year

Comment by  
LAURIE SCHWAB

The more the National League rejects the logical solution of State super leagues, the more it confuses itself in trying to come up with a new league format at a meeting on September 8.

The latest point of contention is whether there should be relegation this year. Although a relegation formula was worked out and agreed to for 1985, there hardly is a case for retaining it if the entire league concept is to change next season. The new league format is supposed to pull the clubs out of trouble, so why should the most troubled teams — those threatened by relegation — be the only ones not to receive help?

I'm not advocating that there should be no promotion. That would be unfair on those clubs that have aimed all year at achieving a higher status.

No, if the league is to be changed, then a way has to be found to give the relegated clubs a reprieve. After all, the entire league is to be given a reprieve (that's the intention anyway, but it depends on the effectiveness of the new format that is worked out.)

The recommendation of the NSL executive about an elite 12-team league in 1986, and a split second-division, has been argued against in detail in a previous edition of this newspaper.

Let us add, however, that it would be folly to form an elite league from the six top finishers in each region at the end of 1985. It would be much more sensible to hand-pick the 12 on the basis of facilities, finances and performance over the past 10 years or so.

But I doubt that the executive's recommendation will be adopted. The clubs that don't see themselves capable of reaching the elite league will vote against it. And how can a second division club be financially stable if its members have to pay air fares, and if its matches are played in opposition to games in the NSL first division?

George Cross has proposed that there be two 14-team leagues next season, with the two Brisbane clubs moving to the north, the clubs added to the south to bring the total to 14.

That would appear a sensible solution in the absence of super leagues which are still being opposed by many of the NSL leaders.

A compromise could be as follows:

- Choose 12 clubs for an elite league in 1985, on the basis of facilities, finance and past record;

- Relegate the rest to State super leagues, the winners of which would play off against each other at the end of the season, for promotion to the elite league.

The problem then, of course, would be that over a period of time, many of the so-called "elite" clubs would be relegated and replaced by lesser clubs, creating a new crisis as the elite league gradually is watered down.

And so the only solution would be to do away with promotion and relegation altogether, which would be hotly opposed by the States through the ASF.

By  
ALEX VESIC

Tony Dakos, the tall, elegant defender of Sydney Olympic is to try his luck with Red Star Belgrade.

Dakos was recommended to Red Star by Ljubo Gojkovic, former coach of Sydney Olympic and the mentor of Dakos in the Olympic youth team of 1982.

Gojko Zec, the coach of Red Star, extended an invitation to Gojkovic to spend September — October with the famous Belgrade club. Gojkovic was quick to suggest that Tony Dakos be given a chance.

For Dakos it was sudden and delightful news. "I have no clue about what will happen if I go to Belgrade. This is one of Europe's best outfits and I'll be looking forward to learning a lot. As for succeeding and getting a place among the first eleven I hold little hope, but I'll give it my best shot", Dakos said.

It was almost strange to hear from Dakos that he is delighted to try his luck in most European countries but not England. "I enjoy the pace and skill of European teams and not the physical style which is preferred in England," he said.

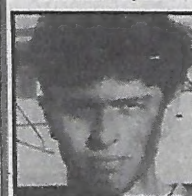
Born in Marrickville, Sydney, in April, 1964, Dakos was soon to leave Australia for the warm shores of Peloponnes, the land of the mighty Spartans.

At the tender age of four, he was to accompany his parents to Greece for a stint of five years. He was to stay at the small village of Papadionika at the southern tip of Peloponnes with the island of Kirithira only a stone's throw away.

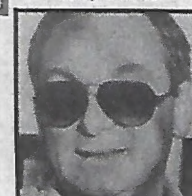
Football is a matter of life there — at times the only life known to young children as they take their first strides in search of success.

And as in ancient Sparta, the children of Peloponnes take to football the way their ancestors took to fighting — to succeed you must be the best. The only way to do it is to practice.

Continued p. 14



Tony Dakos



Ljubo Gojkovic



'We don't just observe England, we also blindly copy it inheriting, because we don't have enough players with flair ourselves, its very worst by-products.'

So that longest of sporting marathons, the English soccer season, kicked off as 92 professional clubs embarked for the 86th time on their annual nine-month hurly burly so readily described as the toughest competition in the world.

And it's not an inaccurate description either, although the adjective "toughest" is often confused with "best" by those who have a particular affection for the English game.

Watching Carlos Lopes and his army of subordinates sweat through that Olympic marathon a few weeks ago, I found myself musing at the wisdom of sportsmen subjecting themselves to such a taxing occupation.

Sport after all, whether you pursue it for money or glory or both, is meant to be enjoyed yet surely the marathon for the runner produces nothing but self-denying pain.

Such, it seems to me, is just about the case with English football.

By early May, which is when the soccer season probably will end as a result of the usual mid-winter postponements, each English First Division club will have played 42 games: roughly a game every five or six days, not counting the burden many of the clubs will face competing in the FA Cup, the Milk Cup and the three European Cups.

In the midst of all that they will plod through the most adverse weather conditions Mother Nature can bestow on sportsmen and, most amazingly of all, do it a faster pace than soccer is played anywhere else in the world.

Sheer lunacy is what it must seem to many non-Anglos, but lunacy or not, you've got to admire the English for persevering with it.

How indeed can you but admire a team like Liverpool which can turn around at the end of it all and win the European Cup, and do it four times in eight years.

Yes, the English game remains intact and strong, if you forget for a moment the miserable record of its national team, and it is not unlikely that English clubs will once again dominate the European competitions which kick off next month.

But there is criticism, mounting slowly, of the length of the English season and appeals in recent years have become louder, calling for a reduction of the First Division from 22 to 18 clubs.

The calls are for sound economic reasons as the English First Division, like most others in the world, continues to suffer from crowd figures which do not cover insane player wages and transfer fees.

And let me, from this dis-

## Talent squashed in marathon English season



Glen Hoddle (left) and George Best - glimmers of flair amid the nastiness

tance, add my voice to those calls although for reasons other than economics.

I cannot confess to being a fan of English soccer, or at least not of the way the game has been played there since England won the World Cup in 1966.

The English game to me is brutal, predictable, too fast, nasty and singularly unattractive.

Brutal and nasty not because of dirty play or gamesmanship, of which soccer in other nations is much more guilty, but because brute force and a nasty pre-occupation with physical, rather than tactical, aggression dominate the minds of players and coaches alike.

The game is played at such a cracking pace that it would take a Best, a Pele or a Maradona to find time to turn with the ball, much less size up a number of options and make a telling pass.

Consequently the cop-out solution is the long ball to the far post where x times out of y the tall defender or goalkeeper will fumble, the ball will fall to the feet of an attacker and somehow it will be scrambled into the net.

A long time dissident from

this manner of playing has been West Ham United. With an almost snobbishly cultured mentality, the Hammers' way always has been to make the ball do the work, rather than the work do the ball as do most other British teams.

But even their idealistic manager, John Lyall, admits that in England it's hard to fight the establishment — meaning that too much of the fancy stuff, too much brittle innovation, and you're likely to be swept off your feet by the brawny opposition.

That means you lose too many matches and in the end, in order to lose less, even an eloquent West Ham can be forced to become another dull Aston Villa or Middlesbrough.

And that mentality is wide and deep in English football where the fans — and you can hardly fight them — are loath to welcome a style different to the one admired in England since Alf Ramsey's team of robots (sorry, Bobby Charlton excepted) gave their country its only international trophy in 1966.

While West Ham's attempts at adventure should,

you would think, be respected by Britons, in fact by most of them it is not.

Hugh Johns, who worked for some months as guest commentator on Channel 6/28 three years ago, dismissed the West Ham style as "airy fairy".

For those of us who wish annually that the English game changed, at least a little bit, to the more "airy fairy", there is little hope.

The fans, as we are told by soccer historians, always want results. So how could anybody in Britain argue for change at a time when their game is so buoyant they come within a drop kick, as they did this year, of having six British finalists in the three European Cups?

In any case, even if those international club results weren't so good, the English I believe would be forced to play the way they do largely because of the length of their season.

Forty-two matches in a season, plus the 20 or so more for a team reasonably successful in the Cup competitions, is one hell of a race where the stayers are the only ones that will survive.

As such the most important quality for a footballer is his staying power, his capacity to last the distance given that the English season is not only super-long but also super-tough because of the pace and manner in which it is played.

There are simply not enough players in the world, much less in one country, who can both play with flair and say that kind of distance.

There were some in the past of course, like Best, Blanchflower, Charlton, who appeared capable of both but they were far too few and in any case the game, when



### LES MURRAY

George Best played, was measurably slower than now.

Evidence abounds, too, that players gifted with individual flair succumb under the awesome pressure of the English game.

Osgood, Hudson, Bowles, Currie, Hill and Best himself all have had careers either too short or too stormy to quite deliver all that they promised.

The current enigma is Glenn Hoddle who is simply not having the smooth ride his superb talent, and indeed character should give him.

Sure, he seems prone to injury but that can be a clear case of not being able to stand up, physically, to the brute force of the English game.

And I sometimes wonder whether Hoddle's lengthy injury spells are not his, or at least nature's way of sparing him from having to last the distance others can more easily last.

With that kind of reasoning, wouldn't it be a good step to shorten the English season, where the dull stayers wouldn't dominate as much as they do and more chance would be given to craftsmen like Hoddle and less to the plodders?

You might well ask, of course, why it should be so important to an Australian soccer man whether the domestic season is long or short.

It is because, as much as I would wish it otherwise, the English game is somehow more important to Australians than is any other.

Treating for instance the English FA Cup final after all only an isolated, domestic affair in world terms as a social event on our calendar, we continue to view English soccer with classic colonial reverence, as though it mattered a hoot how they do things in Mother England.

Worse than that, we don't just observe England, we also blindly copy it — inheriting, because we don't have enough players with flair ourselves, its very worst by-products.

Given that fixation, wouldn't it be nice if England had more Hoddles, Bradys, Francis and, me oh my, one day even the odd Platini.

Les Murray hosts Network 10's "Match of the Day" on Sundays, "On the Ball" on Mondays and Tuesdays, "World Soccer" on Saturdays and Fridays and "International Sports Magazine" on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

## Thomson set for Roo tour as no.2 to Arok

By TED SIMMONS

Eddie Thomson believes lack of patience is one of the biggest factors preventing Australian soccer from reaching a world-class standard.

Thomson, who has been nominated by Frank Arok as assistant coach for the international tour beginning November 1, needs only the approval of the World Cup committee next month to take his biggest step since becoming involved in Australian soccer.

"I just hope the final decision goes my way. People tend to forget I'm still young and pretty new to the coaching side," Thomson said.

The 37-year-old Scot who has been with champion club Sydney City Hakoah for eight years, the last five as coach, has had plenty of time to take a good look at the local scene.

"We've got the strength and speed to match anyone. But we need to polish our reactions under pressure and when in possession. We've got to work on skills, heading, trapping, control and how to hold off two opponents while placing the ball," he said.

"Australians give away possession too cheaply and have no patience. Instead of looking for an opening and creating an intelligent build-up they try to make something out of nothing."

The energetic Thomson, who prefers to train with his team rather than dictate from the sideline, predicts a bright future for the code in Australia.

"When I first arrived here, the teams were mostly full of imports," he said.

"But now, every club has a number of good young players



Eddie Thomson

and they are nearly all locally-born. The emergency of players like Peter Raskopoulos and Jim Patikas is the first positive sign of the youth program starting to mature.

"Les Scheinling and Kaul Blanco did a brilliant job with the youth teams under their control and the good work they started needs to be continued."

"The young players who fail to gain selection in the National youth team will have to grab every opportunity to gain experience, even to the extent of going overseas."

Thomson was pleased to hear the surprised comments of some of the coaches and managers who toured Australia during the May-June internationals this year.

"They were surprised at our standard which was far better than they had expected. For the number of people playing here, we've got a good level and we're getting better all the time, especially as soccer is regarded as a secondary sport to Australian Rules and Rugby League," he said.

"But coaching in Australia is a part-time job and that is a problem. I want to learn as much as I can and hope to be ready in four to eight years for a chance at the national post."

"Frank Arok has been a senior coach for many years and there's so much I can learn from him and the teams we will play against."

Thomson always has been keen on coaching although he still considers he stopped playing too early.

In his Scottish career, he was with hearts for seven years as well as four years with Aberdeen but realised it was impossible to play and coach.

"I went to clinics in Scotland for three years to learn the coaching side and see what it was all about. Even on holidays, I spent time at coaching classes and always had in the back of my mind that I wanted to be a coach," he said.

"My desire to keep fit enables me to run with the players and it helps if you can demonstrate what you want them to do and point out if I can still do it at my age, they should be able to as well."

## NSL may go indoor

The National Soccer League may include a televised and sponsored indoor competition in next year's playing program.

NSL general manager Stefan Kamaz is conducting an examination to see where the League can be involved in indoor soccer.

"I believe there is room for a competition within our normal playing season," said Kamaz.

"This would result in the NSL staging its normal premiership, the National Cup and an indoor competition separate from the outdoor matches."

"Canberra and Sydney already have facilities for indoor soccer and I have discussed the possibilities of playing at the indoor sports centre at Olympic Park in Melbourne."

"I am preparing a number of submissions to be made to companies which have been approached or are about to be contacted over sponsorship."

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## West tops in '85: Malavazos

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

Nick Malavazos would like nothing better than to show his wares to national youth team coach Jim Shoulder.

Even though the West Adelaide Hellas regular was overlooked when Shoulder selected a group of youths to attend a training camp in Adelaide on September 29 and 30, Shoulder may hold another camp in Adelaide and Malavazos is praying that he is invited.

"That's what I'm aiming for right now — to make the youth squad," said the 17-year-old striker.

Malavazos has superb close ball control and times his off-the-ball runs well. However, he admits to not always being the most mobile of forwards.

"The more games I play, the more running I do. I wasn't much of a chaser a couple of seasons ago but I realise how important that part of a forward's game is now."

He's been playing competitive soccer for only four



Nick Malavazos (left) of WA-Hellas holds off a challenge from Newcastle's Ralph Maier. Picture: FRANK HOBBS

seasons, having started with West's under-14's. He was 15 when he made his debut with West's second string side, then in State League Second Division. He made his NSL debut last year, coming on for the last 20 minutes in West's 1-2 loss at Hindmarsh Stadium to arch-rival Adelaide City Juventus.

Malavazos knocked back the chance to go to the Institute of Sport this year because he couldn't continue his studies in Canberra. He's in his matriculation year at Unley High School and hopes to go on to university to study chemical engineering.

"At the start of the year, I think most of the people at West Adelaide Hellas just wanted to survive in the

National Conference. We got off to a great start but results haven't been that good recently because we've had a few injuries. I still think that we can make the five, which would be a great achievement with such a young side."

Malavazos rates Adelaide City Juventus striker Neville Flounders as one of his toughest opponents to date.

"Flounders is a pretty tough guy. He doesn't give much away. And the South Melbourne defence also is very good. It's very well organised."

Malavazos praises South Australian youth team coach Mike Wells.

"Mike's coached me at under-16, under-18 and youth levels so we've done a lot of

work together. He's a genuine bloke and thinks a lot about each opposing team before a game. We go into the games knowing what we have to do and how to play."

If Malavazos wishes about West's end he's not fulfilled this year he reckons that 1985 could be the year that sees his club recalling the heady days of 1978 when it won the National League championship.

"We've got so many young guys in the side that I reckon we'll all learn a lot from this season and we'll be a really, really good side next year."

Shoulder already knows of the talent at West Adelaide Hellas. He selected Malavazos' team mates Theo Stamatopoulos and John Panagis for a training camp last week.

## Johnston strife over baby

Craig Johnston, Australia's first million dollar soccer star, will defy English club Liverpool and remain in Australia for the birth of his first child.

The baby is not due until October 15 and the English football season started last Saturday.

Liverpool wanted Johnston to return for the beginning of the season and has referred the issue to the Professional Footballers' Association.

Liverpool chief executive Peter Robinson has said the situation is unsatisfactory and has to be sorted out.

The club will pay Johnston his wages of nearly \$2,000 a week up to the end of this month but is likely to ask the Football League to intervene if the PFA is unable to solve the problem.

"It would be a lot easier if I could go back now and put things right but I feel my rightful place is with my wife Jenny," Johnston said in Newcastle.

"It's up to the club if they want to stop my wages but I am staying here until Jenny has the baby."

"I will be ringing Robinson as soon as I can to try to reach a solution."

"We want the baby born in Australia and then I will return to England."

"I feel the whole affair has been over-dramatised and I don't want my personal life to become a public debating issue."

"Fact is, and we're going back to England with an Australian baby whatever happens."

The couple lost their first baby last year through a miscarriage.

Johnston said Liverpool had offered him a new three-year contract but he had not signed for the English champions.

"I've had my problems with the club and didn't feel I was treated fairly by them last year," he said.

"I was dropped a couple of times when it was not warranted on form and I didn't deserve that treatment."

The 24-year-old Johnston first arrived in England as a 15-year-old to trial with Middlesbrough and the dream of playing First Division football.

Three years ago Liverpool signed him from Middlesbrough for about \$1 million and he now rates with the best in England.

He returned briefly to Australia at the beginning of the month and spent his time visiting local schools and junior clubs in the Newcastle area of northern NSW.



Alan Davidson, the brilliant utility player of South Melbourne Hellas and the national team, has been voted the most exciting player of 1984 in a poll among 13 "Soccer Action" experts.

It is the second such poll conducted by "Soccer Action".

Last year's winner, Phil O'Connor who was then with Wollongong, did not figure in the voting this time because he missed much of the season due to an injury sustained after joining Blacktown City.

Davidson ranked second to O'Connor last year, and got the majority vote this time partly for his breathtaking performances for Australia during the mid-year international series, and also for his play in the Hellas team.

And whereas O'Connor had a 13-vote margin over second-placed Josip Biskic of Melbourne Croatia.

Hellas and Croatia are the only two teams with two players among the top 10. The others are Oscar Crino, rated fourth, and Tommy Cumming, ranked fifth.

Biskic has added a lot of excitement to the NSL competition with his audacious wing play. He delights in turning opponents inside out with his ball tricks — and the crowd loves it too.

Of last year's top 10, O'Connor, Peter Katholos, Marshall Soper and David Lowe have dropped out, and they have been replaced by Biskic, Frank Farina, Zdravko Lujic and John Bradley.

# Alan Davidson our most exciting star

Those who cast their votes were asked to judge not whom they thought were the best or most consistent players, but rather those they considered the most exciting.

And so the votes were cast for qualities like exceptional ball skills, superior imagination, cheekiness and flair, although some who voted preferred a combination of flair, physical strength and hard running.

And Davidson no doubt created the greatest impression in the series against Glasgow Rangers, Nottingham Forest, Juventus, Iraklis and Manchester United.

Indeed, "Soccer Action" rated him the No. 1 player of World Youth Championship qualifying games.

Indeed, "Soccer Action" rated him the NO. 1 player of that tournament — ahead of Zbigniew Boniek, Paolo Rossi.

Marco Tardelli, Vassili Hatzipapanagis, Remi Moses and the other overseas stars.

A former youth international, Davidson now has played 39 games for the senior national team, among them 21 full A internationals.

He learned his soccer under coach Ian Hynds at Altona City and joined South Melbourne Hellas after the 1979 World Youth Championship qualifying games.

At the moment he plays at right midfield for Hellas, but was at right back in the national team. He also has played left back, central midfield, sweeper, stopper and in attack.

Unfortunately, Davidson may be lost to Australian soccer at the end of the year, as Nottingham Forest has made an offer for him. Last year he almost joined Arsenal.

Frank Farina of Canberra Arrows won the Channel 9/28 Most Entertaining Player award last year, so it probably was inevitable that he would poll well in "Soccer Action's" ratings.

Farina, like Davidson, shone in the national team this year.

Footscray J.U.S.T. did extremely well in the voting, reflecting its high position on the National Conference ladder. Its most exciting forward, according to the voting, is left winger Zdravko Lujic who is enjoying one of his best seasons since coming to Australia in 1978.

Here's how the votes added up; and below we present the votes of each individual writer.



**77. Alan DAVIDSON**  
(SM-Hellas)  
ex-Altona City



**53. Josip BISKIC**  
(Melb. Croatia)  
ex-Osijek, Borovo, Slavonski Brod



**49. Frank FARINA**  
(Canberra Arrows)  
ex-Mareeba, A.I.S.



**39. Oscar CRINO**  
(SM-Hellas)  
ex-B.U. Juventus, Tung Sing, Footscray J.U.S.T.



**36. Tommy CUMMING**  
(Melb. Croatia)  
ex-Sunshine City



**34. Zdravko LUJIC**  
(Footscray J.U.S.T.)  
ex-Novici Sad



**27. Jim PATIKAS**  
(Sydney Olympic)  
ex-Syd. C. Hakoah



**26. Zarko ODZAKOV**  
(Preston-Makedonia)  
ex-Vardar Skopje



**25. Joe WATSON**  
(Syd. C. Hakoah)  
ex-Forfar Athletic, Nottingham Forest



**23. John BRADLEY**  
(APIA-L'hardi)

## CRAIG MACKENZIE

10. George Martin (B.U. Juventus).
9. Josip Biskic (Melb. Croatia).
8. Alan Davidson (SM-Hellas).
7. Josip Biskic (Melb. Croatia).
6. Joe Watson (Syd. C. Hakoah).
5. Frank Farina (Canberra).
4. Marshall Soper (Syd Olympic).
3. Terry Butler (APIA).
2. Tony Franken (Canberra).
1. John Bradley (APIA).

## PETER DESIRA

10. Alan Davidson (SM-Hellas).
9. Mike Petersen (H'berg-Alexander).
8. Zarko Odzakov (Prest-Makedonia).
7. Zdravko Lujic (Foot. J.U.S.T.).
6. Paul Wade (Green Gully).
5. Robbie Dunn (Prest-Makedonia).
4. Frank Farina (Canberra).
3. Charlie Egan (SM-Hellas).
2. Marshall Soper (Syd Olympic).
1. Tommy Cumming (Melb Croatia).

## KEN KONTRA

10. Charlie Yankos (H'berg-Alexander).
9. Josip Biskic (Melb Croatia).
8. Paul Wade (Green Gully).
7. Alan Davidson (SM-Hellas).
6. Sergio Melita (Adel. C. Juventus).
5. Charlie Egan (SM-Hellas).
4. Zarko Odzakov (Prest-Makedonia).
3. Zdravko Lujic (Foot. J.U.S.T.).
2. David Brogan (Melb. Croatia).
1. Frank Farina (Canberra).

## LAURIE SCHWAB

10. Alan Davidson (SM-Hellas).
9. Tommy Cumming (Melb Croatia).
8. Josip Biskic (Melb Croatia).
7. Zdravko Lujic (Foot. J.U.S.T.).
6. Tony Curcio (Melb Croatia).
5. David Brogan (Melb Croatia).
4. Oscar Crino (SM-Hellas).
3. Charlie Yankos (H'berg-Alexander).
2. Marshall Soper (Syd Olympic).
1. Frank Farina (Canberra).

## PETER KATHOLOS

10. John Bradley (APIA).
9. Josip Biskic (Melb Croatia).
8. Zdravko Lujic (Foot. J.U.S.T.).
7. Alan Davidson (SM-Hellas).
6. Tommy Cumming (Melb Croatia).
5. Jim Patikas (Syd Olympic).
4. Mike Coady (Syd Olympic).
3. Mark Jankovics (Marconi).
2. George Konstantopoulos (WA-Hellas).
1. Wally Savor (Syd Croatia).

## FRANK PANGALLO

10. Dragan Lacmanovic (Foot. J.U.S.T.).
9. Josip Biskic (Melb Croatia).
8. Oscar Crino (SM-Hellas).
7. Alan Davidson (SM-Hellas).
6. Jim Patikas (Syd Olympic).
5. Tony Franken (Canberra).
4. Charlie Egan (SM-Hellas).
3. Alex Robertson (Syd. C. Hakoah).
2. Graham Jennings (Syd Olympic).
1. Tommy Cumming (Melb Croatia).

## LES MURRAY

10. Oscar Crino (SM-Hellas).
9. Alan Davidson (SM-Hellas).
8. Steve Gojevic (Melbourne Croatia).
7. Frank Farina (Canberra).
6. Tony Franken (Canberra).
5. Zarko Odzakov (Preston-Makedonia).
4. Zdravko Lujic (Footscray J.U.S.T.).
3. Doug Brown (SM-Hellas).
2. John Bradley (APIA).
1. Peter Katholos (Sydney Olympic).

## RICKY ROSSO

10. Frank Pimblett (Brisb City).
9. Alan Davidson (SM-Hellas).
8. Wally Savor (Syd Croatia).
7. Robert Markovic (Melb Croatia).
6. Oscar Crino (SM-Hellas).
5. Josip Biskic (Melb Croatia).
4. Steve Jackson (Brisb Lions).
3. Vlatko Belic (Foot. J.U.S.T.).
2. Graeme Arnold (Syd Olympic).
1. Peter Tredinnick (APIA).

## PHILIP MICALLEF

10. Alan Davidson (SM-Hellas).
9. John Kosmina (Syd. C. Hakoah).
8. Frank Farina (Canberra).
7. Roy Cotton (Penrith).
6. Jim Patikas (Syd Olympic).
5. David Lowe (Marconi).
4. Graham Jennings (Syd Olympic).
3. Joe Watson (Syd. C. Hakoah).
2. Marshall Soper (Syd Olympic).
1. Peter Tredinnick (APIA).

## PAUL JAMES

10. Joe Watson (Syd. C. Hakoah).
9. John Kosmina (Syd. C. Hakoah).
8. Frank Farina (Canberra).
7. Oscar Crino (SM-Hellas).
6. Tommy McCulloch (Marconi).
5. John Bradley (APIA).
4. Tony Curcio (Melb Croatia).
3. Graham Jennings (Syd Olympic).
2. Andrew Koczka (St. G. Budapest).
1. Gary Meier (Syd Olympic).

## LES SHORROCK

10. Tommy Cumming (Melb Croatia).
9. Joe Watson (Syd. C. Hakoah).
8. Frank Farina (Canberra).
7. Joe Carroll (Foot. J.U.S.T.).
6. Josip Biskic (Melb Croatia).
5. Charlie Egan (SM-Hellas).
4. John Bradley (APIA).
3. Marshall Soper (Syd Olympic).
2. Jim Patikas (Syd Olympic).
1. George Martin (B.U. Juventus).

## JOE LANZONI

10. Joe Senkalski (Newcastle-Rosebud).
9. Zarko Odzakov (Prest-Makedonia).
8. Peter Tredinnick (APIA).
7. Frank Farina (Canberra).
6. Jim Patikas (Syd Olympic).
5. Ian Gray (APIA).
4. Vlatko Belic (Foot. J.U.S.T.).
3. Peter Katholos (Syd Olympic).
2. Graham Jennings (Syd Olympic).
1. John Bradley (APIA).

## ALEX VESIC

10. Dennis Boland (Foot. J.U.S.T.).
9. Craig Mason (Marconi).
8. Andrew Zinni (B.U. Juventus).
7. Roy Cotton (Penrith).
6. Tony Dakos (Syd Olympic).
5. Zdravko Lujic (Foot. J.U.S.T.).
4. Oscar Crino (SM-Hellas).
3. Sergio Melita (Ad. C. Juventus).
2. Jim Patikas (Syd Olympic).
1. Jozo Antolovic (Melb Croatia).





# Croatia to hit top spot?

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Melbourne Croatia and APIA-Leichhardt should be close to full strength for their National Cup semi-finals tonight (Wednesday) and their league games on Sunday.

Croatia meets J.U.S.T. in the Cup semi-final at Olympic Park, and APIA takes on Newcastle-Rosebud at St George stadium.

Full backs Peter Lewis and George Hannah, who were suspended from the 1-1 draw with Rosebud last Sunday, will be available again; Tommy Cumming will have had more time to recover from the flu, and Steve Golevic will have a few more days to get over his head injury.

APIA regains John Bradley after suspension, while injured Peter Tredinnick and Arno Bertogna also have a chance of playing — if not tonight, then at least on Sunday against Sydney Hakoah whose only two losses this season have been against APIA.

Croatia officials were talking with goalkeeper Yakko Banovic yesterday (Tuesday) about his refusal to sit on the bench last Sunday because Peter Blasby has been in fine form, but he was told last Sunday that he would play for half the game. Had he done so, he probably would have been included for tonight's semi-final.

Newcastle-Rosebud is playing with much spirit, so I believe it can get at least a draw from its match against St. George Budapest on Sunday, even though I can't see the Northerners beating APIA tonight. Footscray JUST will prove a tough opponent for Croatia, but I believe Croatia has the edge in talent and will win the semi-final. JUST however, probably will make amends by beating South Melbourne Hellas on Sunday, as Hellas stages a recovery, it will have to contend with the agility of goalkeeper Dennis Boland, who is in exceptional form. By the same token, though, Hellas goalkeeper Peter Laumets, also is enjoying one of his finest seasons.

Croatia's league match on Sunday is against National Conference leader Heidelberg-Alexander, which left Scott Patterson on the bench in a surprising move against JUST last weekend. I wouldn't risk leaving Patterson out against Croatia, as Heidelberg will need every ounce of strength and scoring power to survive this match. Last time they met, in a scoreless draw, it was Jeff Oliver, the goalkeeper, who saved Heidelberg from defeat.

If the results go as expected on Sunday, Croatia should be the new league leader. Sydney Hakoah, meanwhile, should beat APIA, finally, on Sunday. APIA had the incentive of perhaps working its way to the top before losing to Brisbane Lions last weekend. With that incentive gone now, and after a hard game mid-week, I can't see APIA maintaining its dominance over the league leader.

Brisbane Lions have done exceptionally well, but they lost to Brunswick Juventus last time, and Juventus will place the emphasis on defence at Richmond on Sunday, so the result should be a draw, although Juventus could win it in breakaways via Andrew Zinni who scored against Lions last time, and Robbie Cullen who's in tremendous form.

## Team of the week

In brackets: number of appearances in team of the week

RUSSELL (3) (SM-Hellas)	DUNN (3) (P. Mak)	OWENS (1) (N. Rose)	POSTCOGLOU (1) (SM-Hellas)
WATSON (1) (Hakoah)	MELTA (4) (Ad. Juve)	BRYANT (1) (Canberra)	MACLAREN (1) (S.G. Cross)
CULLEN (1) (B. Juve)	SMALLMAN (1) (G. Gully)		

Weekend intra-conference NSL challenge matches, with likely winners in capitals:

### SATURDAY

Wollongong v CANBERRA ARROWS at Depto Showgrounds, 7.30pm.

### SUNDAY

MELBOURNE CROATIA v Heidelberg-Alexander at Olympic Park, 3pm.

FOOTSCRAY JUST v South Melbourne Hellas at Schintler Reserve, 3pm.

PRESTON-MAKEDONIA v Adelaide City Juventus at Connor Reserve, 3pm.

GREEN GULLY v Brisbane City at Green Gully Reserve, 3pm.

Brisbane Lions v BU Juventus (draw) at Richlands, 3pm.

West Adelaide Hellas v SUNSHINE-GEORGE CROSS at Hindmarsh Stadium, 3pm.

SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH v APIA-Leichhardt at Sydney Athletic Field, 3pm.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC v Marconi at Pratten Park, 3pm.

Melita Eagles v Blacktown (draw) at Melita Stadium, 3pm.

SYDNEY CROATIA v Penrith at King Tomislav Park, 3pm.

St George Budapest v Newcastle-Rosebud (draw) at St George Stadium, 3pm.

National Cup semi-finals tonight (Wednesday):

MELBOURNE CROATIA v Footscray JUST at Olympic Park, 7.30pm.

APIA-LEICHHARDT v Newcastle-Rosebud at St George Stadium, 7.30pm.

## Still Bradley

Leader John Bradley of APIA and second placed Paul Wade of Green Gully didn't improve their positions at the weekend in our Boral Bricks \$1,500 award for the NSL Player of the Year.

Bradley was serving a suspension while Wade battled in midfield during Green Gully's 3-3 defeat by Adelaide City Juventus.

Bradley, with 73 votes, is eight votes clear of Wade. Three players are third, with 53 votes — Tony Franken of Canberra, Gary McDowell of Footscray J.U.S.T. and Dave McIntosh of Penrith.

### Leading votegetters:

73 — Bradley (APIA)	65 — Wade (GC)
53 — Franken (Can.)	McDowell (J.U.S.T.)
50 — Melita (Ad. Juve)	Biskic (M. Cro)
46 — Williams (GG)	45 — Wishart (B. City)
44 — Jackson (Lions)	43 — Kosmina (Syd. Hak)
42 — Hoare (Black)	41 — Bertogna (APIA)
40 — Tredinnick (APIA)	

John Kosmina's goal in Sydney Hakoah's 4-1 win over Blacktown maintained his three-goal lead in our Boral

## Ansett. The National League's Official Airline

### AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH	14	6	2	54	18	34
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	11	7	4	43	22	29
APIA-LEICHHARDT	11	8	5	37	26	28
MARCONI	9	6	7	44	28	24
MELITA EAGLES	7	8	7	21	24	22
Sydney Croatia	6	9	7	27	34	21
Penrith	6	9	7	24	32	21
Blacktown	7	6	9	31	40	20
Newcastle-Rosebud	8	3	11	28	45	19
St George Budapest	5	8	9	29	34	18
Canberra Arrows	4	13	3	35	33	17
Wollongong	4	14	15	48	12	

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER	12	6	4	32	18	30
SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS	13	3	6	36	18	29
MELBOURNE CROATIA	11	7	4	34	23	29
B.U. JUVENTUS	10	4	8	25	33	24
FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T.	9	4	9	26	23	22
Brisbane Lions	9	4	9	32	31	22
Adelaide City Juventus	8	4	10	26	26	20
Brisbane City	8	4	10	16	26	20
Green Gully	7	5	10	28	31	19
Preston-Makedonia	7	4	11	35	33	18
West Adelaide Hellas	6	4	12	33	41	16
Sunshine-George Cross	4	6	12	19	44	14

## BORAL BRICKS

We can help you build it.

**Bricks \$1,000 Top Scorer award.**  
Doug Brown, who scored South Melbourne Hellas' winner against Preston Makedonia last weekend is second, with 15 goals.  
**Leading scorers:**  
18 — Kosmina (Syd. Hak.)  
15 — Brown (SMH)  
11 — Arnold (S.Cro.)  
10 — Bradley (APIA), Janakovic, Lowe (Mar), Katholopoulos (Oly)  
9 — Cairney (Lions), Lewis (GG), Winn, Patterson (Heid), Brown (Mar), Patikas (Oly), Konstantopoulos (Westad)  
8 — Farina (Can), McCulloch (Mar), Brandt (N. Rose)  
7 — Daunt (Lions), Bryant (Can), Lujic (J.U.S.T.), Brogan, Golevic (M. Cro), Jackson (Pen), Marten (St. G.), Egan (SMH), Fletcher (Syd. Hak), Soper (Oly)

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

**PRESTON-MAKEDONIA 0 SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 1 (Brown 50th) at Connor Reserve. Crowd about 5000. Ratings by Laurie Schwab:**

MAKEDONIA: Wilson 7 — Dunn 9 — McMillan 8, Opatinis 7, Dobson 8 — Heys 8, Flavel 8, Lucchesi 7, Campbell 8 — Cole 5 (Ilioksi 60th) Lane 8. Coach: Frank McAleer.

HELLAS: Laumets 8 — Kalitatis 8, Russell 9, Yzendoorn 8, Postecoglou 9 — Davidson 6, Cirno 7, Kanessopoulos 6, Murphy 5 (sent off 36th) — Brown 6, Egan 7. Coach: Len McKendry.

Best six for Boral Bricks Player of the Year award: 6. Dunn (Mak), 5. Postecoglou (Hellas), 4. Russell (Hellas), 3. Kalitatis (Hellas), 2. Campbell (Mak), 1. Laumets (Hellas).

**ADELAIDE CITY JUVENTUS 3 (Villani 37th & 73rd, Flounders 11th) GREEN GULLY 1 (Vassallo 46th) at Olympic Sports Field, Crowd: about 1000. Ratings by Robert Lustig:**

ADELAIDE JUVENTUS: McNally 6 — Cacerre 6 (Shilabeer 75th), Nyskhus 7, Flounders 8, Tobin 6 — Maxwell 7, Melita 9, Villani 7 — Rankin 6, Gatenby 6, Mullen 7. Coach: Edmund Kreft.

GREEN GULLY: Denys 7 — Hogben 7, Cannell 7, McLelland 6, Beranic 6 — Mancinelli 65, Vassallo 8, Wade 7, Williams 6 — McGuinness 5 (sent off 60th), Smallman 8. Coach: Bobby McLachlan.

Best six for Boral Bricks Player of the Year award: 6. Melita (Juve), 5. Smallman (GG), 4. Flounders (Juve), 3. Vassallo (GG), 2. Villani (Juve), 1. Mullen (Juve).

**BRISBANE CITY 0 BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS 1 (Miranda 3rd) at Spencer Park. Crowd: 1487. Ratings by Ricky Russo:**

BRISBANE CITY: Wishart 7, Milovanovic 8, Liddell 7, Perry 8, Bromfield 7, O'Mave 6 (Swan 63rd), Pimblett 8, Hamilton 6, Fabrizio 6 (Pagan 76th), Walsh 5, Mengotti 7. Coach: Joe Gilroy.

JUVENTUS: Martin 7, Geremia 6, Drinczyk 7, Brown 8, Campbell 7, Cullen 8, Dowie 7, Miranda 8, Sweeney 7, Lloyd 6, Zinni 7. Coach: John Margaritis.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Cullen (BJ), 5. Brown (BJ), 4. Pimblett (BC), 3. Milovanovic (BC), 2. Miranda (BJ), 1. Perry (BC).

## AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE

**APIA LEICHHARDT 0 BRISBANE LIONS 1 (Anderson 40th) at Henson Park. Crowd: 1112. Ratings by Roger Sherrick:**

APIA LEICHHARDT: Parks 7, Bozanic 7, Pullen 8, Van Egmond 6, Brown 7, Butler 7, Genovese 6, Gray 7, De Gellie 6, Caban 6, Morsello 6. Coach: Fil Bottalico.

BRISBANE LIONS: Farrow 8, Jackson 7, Hunter 8, Niven 8, McKimming 7, R. Stewart 8, J. Stewart 7, Anderson 7 (Vasquez), McDonna 5, Juna 6, Daunt 7. Coach: Gordon Arrowsmith.

Best six for the Boral Bricks award: 6. Hunter, 5. Farrow (both Lions), 4. Pullen (APIA), 3. Niven (Lions), 2. Gray, 1. Brown (both APIA).

**PENRITH CITY 1 (Macdonald o.g. 90th) MELITA EAGLES 1 (Andropoulos 78th) at Cook Park. Crowd: 721. Ratings by Emanuel Grima:**

PENRITH CITY: Gibson 7, Brogan 8, B. McIntosh 7, Cross 7 — Ainsworth 7, Wotherspoon 7, Hale 6 (Fitzharris 58th), 7, Hunter 6, Cotton 7, Jackson 7. Coach: Willie Wallace.

MELITA EAGLES: Macpherson 7 — McAusland 8, McGinn 6, Macdonald 7, Tredinnick 6, Allan 7, Jamieson 8, Farrugia 8, Davies 7, Andropoulos 7, Johnstone 6 (Laird 70th).

Best six for Boral Bricks award: 6. Jamieson (MI), 5. Brogan (PI), 4. McAusland (MI), 3. Farrugia (MI), 2. McIntosh (MI), 1. Andropoulos (MI).

**BLACKTOWN CITY 1 (O'Connor 18th) SYDNEY CITY 4 (Barnes 1st, Lee 58th, Kosmina 74th, Kay 85th) at the Gabbie. Crowd 1102. Ratings by George Streeter:**

BLACKTOWN CITY (O'Connor 18th) SYDNEY CITY 4 (Barnes 1st, Lee 58th, Kosmina 74th, Kay 85th) at the Gabbie. Crowd 1102. Ratings by George Streeter.

BLACKTOWN CITY: Hoare 7, Wheatley 8, Dunleavy 7, Pointer 7, Skellern 6, Selva 8, Thorntwaite 6, Byrne 6, Sandy 6, Larkin 6 (McLaughlin 75th), O'Connor 7. Coach: Casey de Bruin.

SYDNEY CITY: Pezzano 7, Rodrigues 7, Robertson 8, O'Connor 7, De Marigny 8, Watson 9, Kay 8, Barnes 8, Lee 8, Kosmina 7, Murray 7. Coach: Eddie Thomson.

Best six for Boral Bricks award: 6. Watson (SC), 5. Kay (SC), 4. Selva (BL), 3. Barnes (SC), 2. Wheatley (BL), 1. Lee (SC).

**MARCONI 0 SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (Katholopoulos pen. 41st) at Marconi Stadium. Crowd 3160. Ratings by Alex Vesic:**

MARCONI: James 7, Carter 7, Mariani 8, Calderan 7, Spinos 6, McCulloch 7, Mason 8, Janovic (Licata 8th) — 6 (Carbone 71st), 7, Brown 6, Shane 8. Coach: Les Scheinfeld.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier 8, Rogers 7, Dakos 8, Coady 8, Jennings 7, Raskopoulos 7, Katholopoulos 7, Patikas 6, Kalantzis 6 (Lampopoulos 78th), Soper 7, Koussas 6. Coach: Manfred Schaefer.

Best six for Boral Bricks award: 6. Mason (MI), 5. Raskopoulos (SO), 4. Mariani (MI), 3. Dakos (SO), 2. Coady (SO), 1. Soper (SO).

**ST GEORGE BUDAPEST 1 (Koczka 83rd) SYDNEY CROATIA 1 (Arnold 44th) at St George Stadium. Crowd: 3922. Ratings by Knut Werner:**

ST GEORGE BUDAPEST: Sreen 7, M. O'Shea 8, Ratcliffe 8, Ricoy 8 — Barton 8, Stone 8, Petkovski 7 — Slater 7, Koczka 8, Marton 7. Coach: Frank Ark.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Woodhouse 7 — Woods 7, Vidale 8, Sterrey 8, Tomashich 7 — Rosic 7, Borges 7, Godzik 7 — Jurin 6, Arnold 7, Savor 8. Coach: Harry Noon.

Best six for Boral Bricks Player of the Year award: 6. Barton (StG), 5. Vidale (Cr), 4. Stone (StG), 3. Sterrey (Cr), 2. Savor (Cr), 1. Koczka (StG).

**CANBERRA ARROWS 4 (Gibson 2, Bryant pen, Harkins, WOLLONGONG CITY 0 at National Sports Centre, Canberra. Crowd: 768. Ratings by Peter Windsor:**

CANBERRA: Economopoulos 7, Ontong 7, Jones 7, Christopoulos 8, Harkins 8, Bryant 8, Mihailidis 7, Sermanni 8, Gibson 7, Reis 7, Perinovic 7. Coach: Doug Collins.

WOLLONGONG: Tiled 7, Green 8, Fleming 8, Willis 7, Vlietstra 7, Kerr 7, Gaffney 8, Burdalo 7, Kotamimidis 7, Fontana 7, Beggs 7. Coach: Adrian Alston.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Bryant (Can), 5. Harkins (Can), 4. Green (W), 3. Fleming (W), 2. Christopoulos (Can), 1. Sermanni (Can).

## VSF Travel top scorers

The VSF Travel Club, in conjunction with Ameco Travel, is sponsoring our 1984 National Conference Top Scorer award.

The winner receives a trip to Europe, flying Thai International.

### Leaders:

- 15 — Brown (SMH)
- 9 — Cairney (Lions), Lewis (GG), Winn, Patterson (Heid), Konstantopoulos (Westad)
- 7 — Daunt (Lions), Lujic (J.U.S.T.), Brogan, Golevic (M. Cro), Egan (SMH).



## INTER...

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# No more Mr Nice Guy: Yakra

## Melb Croatia 1 N. Rosebud 1

Scorers: 1-0 Brogan 78th  
pen, 1-1 Milosevic 83rd.  
Venue: Olympic Park.  
Attendance: 2000 (estimates)  
Referee: Evan Venios 8  
Cautions: Allen (NR),  
McGuire (NR)

Peter Desira

lack of big names had winners all over the park.

Neil Owens, playing in only his fifth NSL match, was superb at the back, defending solidly throughout and adding two timely tackles in goal-scoring situations.

In midfield John McQuarrie, who was in doubt with injury before the match, stood out like a beacon and up front Dean Milosevic offered himself continually and crowned his day with a super goal from all of 35 metres.

## Villani strikes, Melta stars

By ROBERT LUSÉTICH

### AC-Juventus 3 Green Gully 1

Scorers: 1-0 Flounders 11th, 2-0 Villani 37th, 2-1 Vassallo 46th, 3-1 Villani 73rd.  
Venue: Olympic Sports Field.  
Crowd: about 1000.  
Cautions: Gatenby, Maxwell, Villani (Juve); Vassallo (GG).  
Sent off: McGuinness (GG) 60th.

Adelaide Juventus in one of its few complete performances this season, could have shelved Green Gully's final five aspirations.

Gully needed to beat Adelaide Juventus to legitimise its finals bid a task that proved beyond the Victorians on a muddy field.

The job was not made easier by the actions of forward Bobby McGuinness, who saw it necessary to earn a yellow card and then be sent off by referee Mike Browning after kicking the ball away, thus leaving his side to toil with 10 men for the last half-hour.

Green Gully, contrary to the score-line, did not play badly, it did all it could to win but Juventus was better.

For 90 minutes the Juventus players ran, chased, tackled and did all the things that make a coach happy.

Even Juve boss Edmund Krefl, who's not averse to frowning after games, admitted his team's total commitment carried the day.

Juve off on the right foot

### Man of the Match: NEIL OWENS (Newc-Rosebud)

Peter Blasby shrugged off the controversy over his team place to bring off one of the saves of the match, managing to tip away a dipping shot from Joe Senkalski.

Clint Gosling at the other end matched Blasby's feat, saving a shot on the turn from Robert Markovac after 18 minutes and then palming a header from Steve Goejovic over the bar.

Biskie beat Gosling in the 67th minute, latching onto a low centre to slam a shot goalwards from inside the 18 yard box but the ball bounced back



● Happier days — Yakra Banovic (right) is welcomed to Melbourne Croatia by Coach Tony Vrzina.

into play off the post and Rosebud was let off the hook.

A penalty decision for a challenge by Mike Boogard on Tom Cumming, changed the course of the game 12 minutes from the end when everyone was expecting it to end in a 0-0 draw.

David Brogan was unperturbed by the fuss and coolly slotting the spotkick away to register his seventh goal of the season.

Newcastle however deservedly got back on level terms five minutes later when Milosevic let fly his dipping piledriver from 35 metres, beating Blasby all ends up.

Watson, our Man of the Match, was a constant menace while his crosses provided the spade work for a number of headers which always threatened Barry Hoare in goal for the Demons.

In fact from the opening bell, Sydney Hakoah came out fighting and it was Watson who took a free kick on the right hand side to float his cross into the area for Murray Barnes to head home the first of Hakoah's four goals.

Phil O'Connor and Larkin combined to give O'Connor a chance to round Pezzano before scoring Blacktown's equaliser in the 18th minute and for a brief moment the Demons looked good.

Soon after the break Hoare was called upon to save yet another cracker, this time from Grant Lee. An angled drive by Lee looked set to give Hakoah the lead until Hoare flew to fingertip it around the post.

Seconds later Paul Kay was in with a chance but missed a sitter from some 12 metres.

But with Hakoah moving well, it was only a matter of time before the goals came. In the 58th and following yet another free kick by Watson and yet another header by Barnes, in came Lee to head past Hoare for Number two.

In the 74th Paul Kay broke through on the right, crossed and this time Kosmina was on hand to head past Hoare.

Kay had another superb run close to full time. Leaving one defender behind, he hit a great ground shot which left Hoare helpless.

Hakoah is now poised to take yet another title to Bondi and on its display at the Gabbie it would certainly be a deserved one.

● Neville Flounders (left) of AC-Juventus heads towards goal past, from left: David Hogben, Paul Wade, Mark Gatenby and Charlie Villani. Picture: FRANK HOBBS



● Neville Flounders (left) of AC-Juventus heads towards goal past, from left: David Hogben, Paul Wade, Mark Gatenby and Charlie Villani. Picture: FRANK HOBBS

### Man of the Match: SERGIO MELTA (AC-Juventus)

when its robust stopper, Neville Flounders, climbed to head a right-flank free kick past Lou Denys in the Gully goal after 11 minutes.

The lead was extended in the 37th minute when a low Sergio Melta free was missed by a series of players, before midfielder Charlie Villani virtually walked into the net with the ball at his feet to score.

The half-time mood in the Gully change-room might well have been lower than it was — with a two-goal deficit had Juve's Mark Gatenby fallen a couple of centimetres further from where he did.

The physical Englishman was felled, luckily for the visitor, just outside the box as he raced toward Denys, and nothing came of the incident.

Green Gully, the strong wind at its back in the second period, wasted no time in its efforts to reverse the trend of the first period by scoring a minute into the new half.

Veteran Maltese international Willie Vassallo belted a well-targeted shot into the corner of Willie McNally's goal after a scramble 15 metres out.

The visitors might have got back into the match in the 80th minute after a header by tall Stuart Cannell somehow got

minute started the move for the goal. The ball was touched on to Anderson who headed cleanly into the far end of goal from an unmarked position.

Of the APIA players, national squad selection Ian Gray was head and shoulders over his teammates.

There was a touch of class which spent danger every time he was in possession and like Russell Stewart, his long throws were a feature of the game.

APIA came back over the last 15 minutes. Its striker Tony Morsello had two chances but only once was Lions goalkeeper Rob Farrow in any sort of trouble.

Big Alan Hunter gave nothing away in defence and was ably supported by Steve Jackson, Alan Niven and Bob McKimming.

Midfielder Russell Stewart's long throws applied a great deal of pressure to the APIA defence.

His strong throw from the right touch line in the 40th

### Man of the Match: ALAN HUNTER (Brisbane Lions)

Bertogna took irreplaceable players out of the front line, midfield and defence and APIA paid the penalty.

Youngsters Gary van Egmond and Tony Genovese tried hard but it was Lions' tough defence and team effort that carried the day.

APIA coach Fil Bottalico, with an eye to tonight's (Wed-

nesday's) NSL Cup semi-final clash with Newcastle, said simply: "You cannot win them all."

Lions coach Gordon Arrow-smith rightly described the game as scrappy but to leave it at that would undervalue an all-round effort from his players.

Big Alan Hunter gave nothing away in defence and was ably supported by Steve Jackson, Alan Niven and Bob McKimming.

Midfielder Russell Stewart's long throws applied a great deal of pressure to the APIA defence.

His strong throw from the right touch line in the 40th



George Streeter



## Another title Bondi-bound

### Blacktown 1 SC-Hakoah 4

Scorers: Barnes 1st, O'Connor 18th, Lee 58th, Kosmina 74th, Kay 85th.  
Venue: Gabbie Stadium  
Crowd: 1105  
Referee: Gary Power 6  
Cautions: Steve O'Connor (SC), Skellern (BC)

Sydney Hakoah overpowered the home side at windswept Gabbie Stadium to workmanlike performance from the visitors, with Paul Kay and Joe Watson in the driver's seat all day.

Watson, our Man of the Match, was a constant menace while his crosses provided the spade work for a number of headers which always threatened Barry Hoare in goal for the Demons.

In fact from the opening bell, Sydney Hakoah came out fighting and it was Watson who took a free kick on the right hand side to float his cross into the area for Murray Barnes to head home the first of Hakoah's four goals.

Phil O'Connor and Larkin combined to give O'Connor a chance to round Pezzano before scoring Blacktown's equaliser in the 18th minute and for a brief moment the Demons looked good.

Soon after the break Hoare was called upon to save yet another cracker, this time from Grant Lee. An angled drive by Lee looked set to give Hakoah the lead until Hoare flew to fingertip it around the post.

Seconds later Paul Kay was in with a chance but missed a sitter from some 12 metres.

But with Hakoah moving well, it was only a matter of time before the goals came. In the 58th and following yet another free kick by Watson and yet another header by Barnes, in came Lee to head past Hoare for Number two.

In the 74th Paul Kay broke through on the right, crossed and this time Kosmina was on hand to head past Hoare.

Kay had another superb run close to full time. Leaving one defender behind, he hit a great ground shot which left Hoare helpless.

Hakoah is now poised to take yet another title to Bondi and on its display at the Gabbie it would certainly be a deserved one.

● Neville Flounders (left) of AC-Juventus heads towards goal past, from left: David Hogben, Paul Wade, Mark Gatenby and Charlie Villani. Picture: FRANK HOBBS

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## Lions maul depleted APIA

### APIA 0 Brisb. Lions 1

Scorers: Anderson 40th.  
Venue: Hanson Park  
Crowd: 1112.

Man-to-man marking and a late first half goal by Clark Anderson combined to secure this upset 1-0 win for Brisbane Lions.

APIA took a hammering the previous week when it knocked off leader Sydney Hakoah 2-1 and the results of that battle were there for all to see.

The absence of suspended John Bradley and injured Peter Tredinnick and Arno

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MELBOURNE CROATIA v FOOTSCRAY

OLYMPIC PARK, MELBOURNE — 7.30pm

LEICHHARDT v NEWCASTLE-ROSEBUD

ST. GEORGE STADIUM, SYDNEY — 7.30pm







# Murphy sent off; Dunn praised; Hellas defence magnificent

## SMILLA CATCHES COLE

### Makedonia 0 SM-Hellas 1

Scorer: Brown 50th.  
Venue: Connor Reserve.  
Crowd: about 5000.  
Cautions: Brown (Hellas).  
Sent off: Murphy 36th.  
Referee: Jim Fearn 8.

Makedonia coach Frank McAleer expressed dismay over Robbie Dunn's exclusion from the national squad announced last week by Frank Arok.

"Robbie's been our most consistent player all year and he's certainly shown that he's one of the most versatile players in the league — playing at sweeper, stopper, mid-field, you name it," McAleer said.

Dunn once again was outstanding at Connor Reserve in a match which Makedonia dominated from start to finish, but lost even though Hellas was down to 10 men after Frank Murphy was sent off over a clash with Claude Lucchesi in the 36th minute.

Ironically, it was Lucchesi who was sent off when Makedonia beat Hellas 2-1 with 10 men early this year.

Congratulations to the Hellas defence, which gave every ounce of blood, sweat and tears to withstand Makedonia's furious onslaughts.

Angelo Postecoglou, holding his place only because Steve Blair was out suspended, was particularly impressive. Not only did he overlap tirelessly, he also set up the winning goal for Doug Brown and stopped a certain goal when he kicked the ball away from the feet of Lucchesi who had run into the box on a forward header from Ian Dobson.

And Postecoglou also got his body in the way of a shot from Brown, deflecting it over the crossbar.

Gary Cole was defending his

### Laurie Schwab

title as all-time top scorer of the NSL, but he was unable to capitalise on his scoring chances and was replaced in the 60th minute by Zoran Ilioski.

John Kosmina of Sydney Hakoah now has caught Cole. Both of them have scored 91 league goals since 1977, but Cole remains ahead of Kosmina when you count Cup goals and goals in the top four series. Those included, Cole has 110 and Kosmina 97.

Hellas didn't play well even before Murphy was sent off, meaning its form has been mediocre for four weeks now. It lost 3-1 to West Adelaide Hellas, beat Juventus 1-0 in a low-standard match, and was somewhat lucky to hang onto a 2-1 scoreline against George Cross. Quite a few of the players excluding the defenders — look a bit jaded.

But when your play is below par and you still win, at least you have Lady Luck on your side. That certainly was the case against Makedonia, although the defenders made their own luck. John Yzen-

doorn, for example, cleared a shot by Sean Lane off the goal line, and goalkeeper Peter Laumets made an acrobatic one-handed save to prevent a swerving long shot from George Campbell going in just under the bar.

Makedonia attacked from all angles. Dunn started as a sweeper but moved into the midfield later, leaving only

### Man of the match: ROBBIE DUNN (Makedonia)

three men at the back, and he was at the centre of all the forward moves. George McMillan and Con Opasinis also stormed forward from the back; George Campbell, Graham Hoys and Gordon Flavell pushed their team up relentlessly, and Sean Lane worked like a slave in the firing line.

But try as they might, they couldn't get the ball into the net, and so Makedonia's hopes of reaching the top five are well and truly dashed.

The absence of Zarko Ozdakov who had a groin injury, contributed to the defeat. His flair and imagination may have been the straw to break Hellas's back.

As it turned out, Hellas breathed a huge sigh of relief in second place on the ladder, only a point behind leader Heidelberg-Alexander, but with Ken Murphy out next Sunday, and Carl Halford still in doubt, the midfielders will have to lift their game to overcome Foot-

### Man of the match: GARY COLE

scry J.U.S.T. at Schintler Reserve.

Makedonia started with Con Opasinis marking Charlie Egan and Ian Dobson tagging Doug Brown. Bobby Russel played as stopper for Hellas, in the absence of Blair; Yzen-

doorn was back as sweeper after a two-week absence; Kris Kalifatidis was at right back and Postecoglou at left back.

George Campbell returned to the Makedonia team in place of Ozdakov.

Hellas should have taken the lead in the 10th minute, when Alan Dapson fed a quick pass forward to Brown whose shot

however went straight at Richard Wilson.

Hellas sent the game into a coma during the first half, with its ridiculous square pass-

### Man of the match: JOHN KOSMINA

ing at the back, and almost paid dearly when Yzen-

doorn lost the ball to Lane. It went wide to Campbell, and Lane challenged for the cross, in front of Laumets, but headed over the bar.

Kalifatidis made an inspired break down the right flank after winning the ball, and cut it square across the edge of the box to Brown who shot too high.

Makedonia then took over, forcing five consecutive corners before Hellas could clear. The corner count for the match was: Makedonia 14, Hellas 2.

Murphy was sent off when he kicked at the ball and connected with the knee of Lucchesi in the 36th minute but Hellas started the second half well enough, with Brown and

Egan working the ball forward to Oscar Crino whose shot was saved one-handed by Wilson, in a brilliant reflex action.

Then came the goal. Postecoglou worked the ball forward on the left, played a one-two with Egan and sent the ball square along the byeline. Brown hit it first — time at a 50-degree angle, Wilson got a hand to it low, but it trickled into the net anyway.

Then came a succession of Makedonia misses: Dunn's shot deflected off Postecoglou for a corner. Cole stretching but missing the ball in the six-yard box; Campbell's shot stopped by Laumets; Lucchesi robbed by Postecoglou; Lane's shot cleared off the line by Yzen-

doorn, and Lane's header hitting the crossbar.

In between, Crino played a great back-heel pass to Brown whose shot went across goal from close range.

Makedonia scored an upset 1-0 victory in the early match, against Youth League leader Hellas, which was reduced to 10 men when George Karipidis was sent off in the 30th minute.

Vasco Jankulovski scored the winning goal in the 68th minute.

Teams with ratings: MAKEDONIA: Traianidis 9 - Mominovski 7, Anastasovski 7, Piculovski 8, Papis 7 - Vasco Jan-



Angie Postecoglou

kulovski 7, Balovski 8, Peter Jankulovski 7 (Dinkovski 8, 55th), Sokolevski 7 - Nervovski 6 (Sokolovski 6, 40th), Kovovski 6.

HELLAS: Turudis 6 - Moshopoulou 6, Kessidis 7, Anazakis 8, Vardanis 7 (Karamanidis 20th), Paskos 8, Karameris 7, Kalogeros 8, Klakos 7 (Abramov 7, half time), Mitsou 7, Karpidis (sent off, 30th).

## 'CROSS AVEGES 7-0 LOSS

### S.G. Cross 2 WA-Hellas 0

Scorers: Jovanovic 55th, Latif 70th.  
Venue: Chaplin Reserve.  
Crowd: about 1,000.  
Cautions: Bain, Faulkner (SGC), Malavazos (WA).  
Referee: Fokianos 8.

Paul Calleja thought that he was in for a pleasant Sunday afternoon when he drove into Chaplin Reserve to watch Sunshine-George Cross playing West Adelaide Hellas.

As the youth team neared completion, an announcement came over the loud speakers: "If we have a referee in the crowd, could he please come to the Press box."

When he got to the Press box he was directed to the referees' changing room. There he was asked if he'd like to run the line for this game. The appointed linesman hadn't turned up. It was either Calleja or the referees' advisor or Calleja accepted.

Calleja did the job in style too. It can be somewhat traumatic to jump from the relative security of refereeing under-16 games to running the line at a National League game. Running the gauntlet is perhaps more appropriate for what some linesmen experience at Chaplin Reserve.



Craig Mackenzie

It kinda makes you wonder, though, where we're heading. Then again, I suppose this sort of mismanagement is commonplace and after all, Calleja came through with flying colours.

You know, for some time I've been thinking how beautifully balanced is the structure of Australian soccer at the highest level. I mean, there's a marvellous, almost spontaneous qualitative harmony between the standard of players, coaches, journalists, administrators and spectators in the game here.

Sadly for West Adelaide Hellas, harmony was not the keynote of this performance. Disjointed, dispirited and bloody dreadful are more apt adjectives for one of the worst efforts I've seen this season.

And believe me, I'm being kind! Hellas didn't really beat the 'Cross 7-0 earlier this season, did they? No, of course, they didn't. It must have been a series of misprints throughout the national Press.

Sunshine-George Cross went into the game without Gerry

Bennett, recovering from a knee injury, suspended Mick McGorrian and Chris Taylor and Steve Richardson, who is recovering from a broken bone in a foot.

No matter, for the 'Cross pinned Hellas in for almost the entire first half. In fact Tom Costello wasn't tested even once in this period.

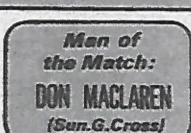
Ian Pitt, who'd be better off if he had his own ball to play with, missed a simple header from four metres in the 6th minute after Ossie Latif skinned John Papazoglou down the left and crossed to the near post. Bobby Toal controlled well, turned, and chipped the ball to the big Rumanian who headed over.

A minute later, with linesman Calleja excellently positioned, Latif broke on to a superb long through ball from Don Maclaren. Latif didn't strike his shot cleanly and Gary Sproul was able to parry.

In the 31st minute, a great 30 metre ball from Maclaren picked out Slobodan Jovanovic wide on the left. Jovanovic charged forward and played the ball into the near post but Latif couldn't get there in time and the Hellas defence scrambled the ball out for a corner.

A minute later, Latif cracked a pleydriever from the left of the penalty area and Sproul tipped the ball just wide of the far post.

Sunshine-George Cross fans were bitter about what they



Don Maclaren

called "selfish play" by their team's forwards in the first half, even though the 'Cross had played some delightful stuff going forward.

However, the never-satisfied brigade was quietened seven minutes into the second half. Sproul charged almost to the edge of his area to jump up in a pack of players and punch a high ball clear. He made contact but not effectively and the ball fell to Jovanovic whose delightfully controlled first-time volley sent the ball sailing into the roof of the unguarded net.

That was the goal which broke the back of this brittle Hellas outfit.

Then Latif went on one of those solo runs in the 70th minute. You know the kind — he gets the ball, his head points down, his butt pokes up and he bulldozes a path to goal. This time it worked. He motored past three startled Hellas defenders and with uncanny accuracy, slotted the ball past Sproul and in off the far post just when we all expected one of those blistering, all-or-nothing drives.

The first goal had kicked Hellas in the guts. This one helped dig the hole most Hellas players had been looking for throughout the game.

Then something strange happened.

Hellas actually went forward and created a scoring chance.

It came about through Chris Manou, who juggled the ball a few times wide on the right until it was perfectly positioned for the execution of an overhead kick. The ball lobbed into the 'Cross area and Nick Malavazos beat the advancing Costello but headed into the side netting of the near post.

The time of this revelation says it all. It happened in the 74th minute.

After the game a group of Sunshine-George Cross supporters surrounded me and told me:

(1) The talk about Green Gully merging with Sunshine-George Cross is "bullshit". (2) The NSL "won't relegate us because we're too strong a club and the league needs our supporters". (3) Alf Zahra "won't be president next year. John Borg will".

Yes, the talk of a merger with the Gully is rubbish. Yes, I expect the NSL to lie down and revoke its decision concerning relegation this season (which will be shameful). Yes, there's a chance that Zahra will step down.

## Melita scores for Penrith

By EMANUEL GRIMA

### Penrith 1 Mel Eagles 1

Scorers: Andropoulos 78th, McDonald 90th og.  
Venue: Cook Park.  
Crowd: 72.

The Eagles looked set to win this close struggle at Cook Park until Steve McDonald scored on own goal in the last minute.

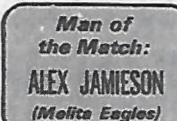
Only 12 minutes earlier Alex Jamieson found an unmarked Andropoulos running through and towards Gibson. Micky Cross tried to go with Andropoulos but failed to stop the youngster from scoring with an angled drive.

With the seconds ticking away, Cross sent a perfect lob into the Melita penalty area for McDonald to run in and score an own goal with a pretty useful header!

It was a sad ending for Melita and also McDonald, the player who was among the best on the park.

Melita had a couple of early chances. Johnston was on hand to pick up a good pass from Howard Tredinick in the eighth minute but with the goal close at hand and the line only protected by the keeper, Johnston shot, allowing Gibson to make a good save.

After 13 minutes, Gibson made yet another save, this time from a cracker of a shot by Farrugia. Davies scraped the bar with a good shot from



Alex Jamieson

(Melita Eagles)

outside the area after some good work by Ray Farrugia.

Penrith provided a few anxious moments for Alex McPherson through enterprising David Fitzharris. His crosses almost caused embarrassment to an understrength Melita defence. Roy Cotton, the man to watch when one tackles Penrith, came close with an effort in the 69th minute, only nine minutes before Melita struck through Andropoulos.

With about four minutes left, Penrith almost scored. Ian Hunter ran past Tredinick to put in a good cross for Cotton to send his header over the bar, but on the stroke of full time McDonald's header found the net of his own goal to even the score.

So, Melita and Penrith continue to pick up points in singles, but not too often, which suggests that the struggle for survival is far from over. For Raul Blanco the day certainly ended on a sad note. After losing a point he also found that his son suffered an injury playing with other children at Cook Park.

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## Tilsed saves penalty, Fleming sent off

### Canberra 4 Wollongong 0

Scorers: Gibson, 22nd & 68th (penalty), Harkins 89th, Bryant 91st.  
Venue: National Sports Centre.  
Cautions: Harkins, Green, Minakidis.  
Sent Off: Fleming (Wollongong) 74th.  
Ref: Neil Murray 7.

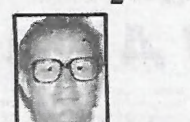
Wollongong City's veteran goalkeeper Ron Tilsed saved two penalties but Canberra still stormed home to thrash the NSL's wooden spooners 4-0.

It was a game of incredible incidents. It produced three penalty attempts, saw one player sent off, two attempts cleared off the goal-line, one smash against the crossbar and the final goal coming nearly two minutes into injury time.

And incredible as it may seem when looking at the score-line, this was Canberra's first win in seven games. And in the previous six they had scored but a solitary goal.

The home team won despite an horrific list of key players absent through injury or suspensions — players like Frank Farrina, Andrew Brockbank, Peter Burke, Tony Redmond, Steve Hogg, Tony Franken and Hilton Phillips.

But now the action. Tilsed gave away a free kick for carrying the ball outside the penalty area in the fifth minute and Canberra mid-



Peter Windsor

shot smashed against the crossbar.

Finally, in the 22nd minute, Canberra opened its account. A high cross saw midfielder Tommy Sermanni quickly on to the ball and his shot beat the goalkeeper but was cleared off the goal-line by full-back Fleming. The clearance bounced straight to Canberra's Ian Gibson and he found the net.

The nearest Wollongong came was a long-range Fleming attempt in the 37th minute that was well taken by Canberra's teenage keeper George Economopoulos.

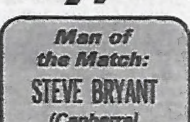
Economopoulos, deputising for the injured Tony Franken, did well in his NSL debut.

The incredible, almost minute-by-minute action came in the second stanza.

After eight minutes Tilsed flicked away an attempt from Alan Reis and minutes later Reis wasted a glorious opportunity by heading straight into Tilsed's hands.

Wollongong vehemently denied the penalty that came in the 58th minute when referee Neil Murray ruled that Peter Willis handled before clearing.

Up came Canberra's penalty



Steve Bryant

king Steve Bryant to kick the spot kick in the muddy, slippery penalty area. His shot had plenty of power but Tilsed made a fine save.

Wollongong's respite, however, lasted but six minutes.

This time referee Murray penalised Ray Vilestira for a shoulder charge — or push — on a Canberra forward.

Gibson retook it and this time found the net.

Canberra then was totally dominant — particularly after fullback Fleming was sent off for an off-the-ball incident with Canberra's Marko Perinovic.

Yet Wollongong did have one glorious chance to open its account in the 78th minute. Peter Beggs' fine low cross

saw Economopoulos save but fail to hold and the ball ran to Glen Fontana only two or three metres out.

Fontana, however, blasted the ball wide of the post.

Canberra stormed back on to attack and when Gibson got his head to a well-struck Bryant corner it took David Green, Wollongong's best player, to clear off the goal-line.

Finally, from a brilliant cross from Paul Ontong, Canberra defender Jim Harkins headed home in the 88th minute and nearly two minutes into injury time Steve Bryant made it 4-0.

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# Katholos gets winner in bruising battle

**Marconi 0  
Syd Olympic 1**

Scorer: Katholos pen. 42nd.  
Venue: Marconi Stadium  
Crowd: 3245  
Referee: Tim Davies 5  
Cautions: Jankovics

In a spiteful game, Olympic emerged the winner through a penalty shot by Peter Katholos close to half time, but I feel that neither side should be proud of the performance.

I do not deny the effort that was put in. Pushing, shoving, kicking — it was all there yet not one yellow card was issued for those infringements.

Timmy Davies, one of the country's best referees had an off day with his whistle and it is a miracle that a punch-up on a larger scale did not erupt. It was strange to see the yellow card come out after an insignificant offence which took place in the opening seconds. Jankovics appeared to be impeded on the half line, yet the free kick was awarded to Olympic and a yellow card given to Jankovics.

What happened for the next 80 minutes certainly deserved far more attention than given



Alex Vesic

on the day by Mr Davies. Most of the action at Marconi Stadium centred around the middle of the park with both sets of midfielders having a great, sometimes over-enthusiastic tussle for possession. Katholos, Raskopoulos and Patikas worked hard for every ball, as did Mason, Lowe and McCulloch for Marconi, with Mason and Raskopoulos emerging as the most successful players on the day.

And while the midfielders tried hard to impress, the defenders had a much easier task. Bertie Mariani and Steve Calderin did a great job for their side at the back, while Dakos and Coady were in great touch at the other end. As for the keepers, well what can one say after only one goal was scored and that was from a penalty?

Gary Meier would certainly have to be the most underrated keeper in the country.

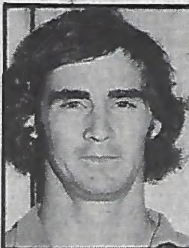
**Man of the Match:**  
**CRAIG MASON**  
(Marconi)

His save from Craig Mason soon after the restart kept Olympic in front and in the end proved vital in collecting the points. His confidence and general command of the area were superb.

Tony Dakos, so alert and always full of ideas, intercepted one of Marconi's raids and before the home side could organise its defence, a long through ball was on its way to Marshall Soper. The long looping strides of Soper saw him run away from Marconi's defence. Super pushed his cross in the path of Koussas who was fractionally offside.

Koussas was on hand to receive a pass from Kalantzis in the 42nd min and was brought down by Calderin and from the ensuing penalty Katholos made no mistake to give Olympic its solitary goal.

Then, with half time approaching, Soper controlled the ball well but his final shot



Gary Meier

went just wide from some seven metres.

Marconi, looking sluggish during the first period, came back firing on all cylinders in the opening minutes of the second half, forcing a number of corners. Rod Brown, kept quiet for most of the match, did manage to get his head to the ball in the 47th minute following a corner kick from the left hand side, but his header found the far post with Meier beaten.

Mark Koussas grazed the crossbar for Olympic in the 73rd, then Patikas' left-footer was tipped around the post by James.



Ken Kontra

# OLIVER SAVES HEIDELBERG

**Heidelberg 1  
Foots JUST 0**

Scorer: Valentine 10th.  
Venue: Olympic Village  
Crowd: 3200  
Cautions: O'Donnell, Belic  
Referee: Stuart Mellings 8

Brilliant goalkeeping by man of the match, Jeff Oliver prevented JUST salvaging a point from this spirited encounter at windswept Olympic Village.

Heidelberg started full of purpose and determination and dominated the first 30 minutes. An unfortunate accident, when Charlie Yankos flattened his own team-mate Mike Petersen (Petersen was treated for five minutes on the side-line before returning to play) seemed to change the pattern of play, with JUST gradually getting more involved, and in fact, gaining control to some extent in the second half.

Don Macleod returned after suspension, but captain Theo Setemidis was out injured and Scott Patterson was relegated to the bench. Young Steve Tasios came into the side to replace Patterson, and he did an excellent job and earned his money by setting up the only goal of the match.

The visitors were without suspended captain, Igor Hazabent but the back four of Curovic, McDowell, Tansey and Karic did a good job, particularly McDowell, who attacked quite a bit in the second half, and Jim Tansey who positioned himself well and stopped many promising Heidelberg attacks.

Steve Winn had the ball in the back of the net after five minutes of play, only to be judged offside and Stuart Stevenson caused a lot of problem with his strong running and fine ball control early in the game.

Petersen and Valentine had the better of the midfield exchanges and a Heidelberg goal looked imminent.

It came in the 10th minute, a well worked goal indeed. Steve



Gary McDowell of J.U.S.T. gets in a forceful challenge on Heidelberg's Stuart Stevenson. Picture: LES SHOR-ROCK

Tasios burst into the box, played a one-two with Steve Winn and crossed the ball for Mike Valentine whose low shot from close range beat Denis Boland all the way.

A few minutes later, it was Tasios to Winn again. This time Winn turned and his angled shot just missed the upright with Stevenson arriving a fraction too late at the far post.

Just before half time Dragan Lacmanovic had two chances to equalise. Zdravko Lujic's cross found him five metres from goal, straight in front, but he did not connect properly and Jeff Oliver saved.

A long clearance by Boland beat the defence and Oliver did well to grab the ball just before Lacmanovic could get a touch.

In the second half both teams continued to attack and despite the windy conditions there was some good soccer with close shaves at either end to entertain the spectators.

Referee Stuart Mellings allowed the game to flow with minimum interference but retained control throughout.

For Heidelberg, Petersen just headed over Valentine's corner and Winn rattled the crossbar with a powerful shot on the run from 16 metres. In the 87th minute, another Valentine corner caused problems for JUST, with Tansey finally clearing off the goal line with Boland beaten.

At the other end Oliver displayed uncanny reflexes, saving close range shots from Lujic, McDowell, Lacmanovic and O'Donnell.

In injury time, Lujic wasted a golden opportunity to force a draw when he blasted his shot wide from 10 metres.

Although Winn was surprisingly substituted by Paul Tzintzis with 15 minutes of play remaining, his partnership with Stevenson did show some promise, and with more matches it could develop into a formidable combination.

# GILROY WARNS JUVE ABOUT THE LIONS



Ricky Rosso

**Man of the Match:**  
**ROB CULLEN**  
(BU-Juventus)

**Brisb City 0  
Juventus 1**

Scorer: Miranda 35d  
Venue: Spencer Park  
Crowd: 1487  
Referee: Dave Nugent 9.

When a team does not play well, yet emerges from a match with two points, then it is a side which cannot be taken lightly.

And Brunswick Juventus is such a team.

On coach John Margaritis' own admission, his side does not travel well and although it was originally aiming for only two points from its two consecutive matches in Brisbane there could be at least a bonus point in store.

Juventus making its first appearance in Brisbane, showed enough glimpses of form to suggest that on its day it could be as good as anyone in the league.

Although it will have to imitate its act if it hopes to score a victory over Lions at Riclands on Sunday, Juventus has the players to keep things tight and steal a point.

Juventus opened in sensational style against Brisbane City, matching the brilliant football played at Spencer Park a month ago by Melbourne Croatia, which is by far the best team to visit Brisbane this season.

But Juventus' winning goal, in the third minute, was hardly its own creation.



Jubilant Juventus after beating Brisbane City in Brisbane, from left: Rino Michiello, John Howie, Eddie Campbell, Joe Sweeney, Andrew Zinn, George Martin (rear), Frank Garamin (front), Vince Verdulo (president), Joe Caruso (team manager), Gary Ward (rear), John Margaritis (coach), Richard Miranda, Kevin Lloyd, Robbie Cullen, Brian Brown. Front: supporter, Joe Castelli (property steward), and Castelli Jr. Picture: Carlos Picasso.

Although Rob Cullen made a good break down the right, his cross was not well directed and found City midfielder Bobby Hamilton on the edge of the penalty box.

Inexplicably, Hamilton attempted to back head rather than just knock the ball away.

His "pass" rolled directly to Richard Miranda, who struck the ball into the top left-hand corner of the goal.

And with one goal on the board that early, it seemed Juventus was set to bury the home side, which was finding the pace hard to match.

But inexplicably, Juventus let its game drop to the laboring standard of Brisbane City and by the second half was fighting to avoid a draw.

But Juventus was always sound in defence and gave the impression that if its forwards ever clicked, City would be on the ropes.

Two minutes after the goal there were muted appeals for a penalty when Paul Dwyer, who appeared to handball on the

edge of the box. The referee, Dave Nugent, who had a superb game, well directed.

The early goal forced City to attack and although it applied continual pressure on the Juventus defence, the home team lacked a finisher to put away the chances.

The busy Rob Cullen, who appeared to bob up in nearly every part of the field, almost put the visitors two ahead in the 35th minute.

Juventus capitalised on a City clearance which hit Nugent and rebounded across the field. Juventus quickly swung it wide for the overlapping Cullen and his low shot across goal hit the base of the far upright.

Cullen nearly scored again six minutes after the break when a clever change of pace won him the ball from a throw in but he wasted his good work when he fired his shot over the upright.

The second half was dominated by City, particularly when coach Joe Gilroy bough on tireless Ross Swan whose

persistence in midfield won his team plenty of possession.

And Swan played a brilliant ball in the 80th minute to give Hamilton the chance to atone for his earlier mistake.

The midfielder raced on to Swan's through ball to get himself into a one-on-one situation against George Martin, although Drinoczky and Brian Brown were closing in behind.

But in his haste to get a shot away, Hamilton swung his attempt across the goal for a harmless goalkick.

Although scoring two points, Margaritis was far from happy with his charges.

"We can do much better than this. I thought City was a better team than that, yet we let them put us under pressure," he said.

But City coach Gilroy had a different slant on the match.

"They were down and out in the second half. We should have beaten them. If they play like that next week, Lions will murder them," he said.

## Drakeford out

Former South Melbourne Hellas midfielder Kenny Drakeford has been transferred to McKee Nelson United in New Zealand.

Nelson coach Phil Dando, once of Newcastle KB United and Brisbane Lions, described Drakeford as a "disruptive influence" and added he was dissatisfied with the little link-man's work rate.

"Kenny is among the most skilful players in New Zealand," Dando acknowledged. "But, his defensive game is lacking and he doesn't get forward often enough. He looks great knocking long balls across the paddock, but they don't win games."

PAUL MOON

# Breather for Budapest

By  
**TED SIMMONS**

**St. George 1  
Syd. Croatia 1**

Scorer: 0-1 Arnold 44th;  
1-1 Koczka 83rd.

Venue: St. George Stadium.  
Crowd: 2922.

Cautions: Slater (St.G), Vidic (S.C.).

Referee: John Small 9.

Defending champion St George Budapest earned a valuable point in its battle against relegation with this struggling 1-1 draw against Sydney Croatia.

St George still trails the relegation-threatened contingent in the Australian Conference but is now only two points behind Blacktown with six rounds remaining.

"We need eight points from the 12 available to be safe," said St George coach Frank Ark.

The two goals were almost last minute shots in each half. Graham Arnold made amends for an earlier rejected penalty appeal when he put Croatia in front one minute before half time with a well judged header over advancing Saints keeper Terry Greedy.

A constant second-half wave of attacks finally paid off for St George with seven minutes remaining when Andrew Koczka completed a fine Peter Petkovski run by booting the ball into the back of the net.

St George had dominated the half with Croatia at times pulling all 11 players back into the penalty area to protect their one goal lead.

The match started full of action with national squad newcomer Wally Savor chipping a second minute pass just over the cross bar with Greedy out of position while Petkovski was knocked off balance one minute later in the Croatian goal area with the ball at his feet.

Former Soccerero keeper Greg Woodhouse denied St George a goal in the 31st minute when he blocked a Thor

**Man of the Match:**  
**MARK BARTON**  
(St.G.Budapest)

Marton shot from 10 metres and a second attempt by Barton was scrambled away for a corner.

Two minutes before the break, Arnold stormed into the Saints penalty area only to be tackled off the ball with referee Ken Small ignoring his appeal for a penalty.

The first five minutes of the second half saw Woodhouse dive over a back-header from Petkovski which finally rolled out of play with the elegant

Zeljko Jurin and Nello Borges wasted a great scoring chance by blasting the ball wide of the St George posts.

Marton, Pedro Rico, Koczka and Robbie Slater all missed scoring chances during the half with Slater crashing a through pass from Marton against the cross bar.

It was a vastly improved St George compared with the previous week's dispirited showing against Newcastle but Marton was only a shadow of the wily goal-poacher of last season.

"We have now gone eight games without defeat and are only one point out of the top five," said Croatia coach Harry Noon.

"St George was a hard team today and we were quite happy to get away with a point," he added.

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# FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T.

• Footscray J.U.S.T. coach Cedo Cirkovic is the longest serving coach in the club's history. He was a top player with Sloboda in Yugoslavia before coming here in 1965 to play with J.U.S.T. He led J.U.S.T. to seven league and cup triumphs as coach from 1972 to 1981 and also played in the 1969 team which won the Victorian State League championship. In 1971, he went to Heidelberg Alexander as player-coach and saved that club from relegation. He took over as coach of Fawkner in 1982, guiding it to the Metro First Division title and taking it into State League for the first time in its history. Under Cirkovic, Fawkner consolidated its State League status last year when it finished 8th. When J.U.S.T. sacked Bobby McLachlan as coach earlier this year it came as no surprise when club officials turned to the man who had given so much to the club as a player and coach.



"I read in the papers last week that my good friend John Margaritis thinks that Juventus still can challenge for the National Conference championship. Fair enough. Then, if that's the case, maybe I'm justified in thinking that Footscray J.U.S.T. will finish in the first four this year and play a prominent part in the finals."

Cedo Cirkovic never seems to change. Not for him outlandish statements, rather, he prefers to play it cautiously. He knows that there still are a few games to go before J.U.S.T. proclaims that it has earned its highest ever finish in the National League. Not that he lacks confidence. He believes in the ability of his players. He knows that they can do it. He'd just rather wait until the season ends, then turn around and say that the club, at long last, is making marked progress out on the playing arena.

"When I left Fawkner last year I thought that I would take a year out of soccer and rest. I think I'd earned a break. But after J.U.S.T. sacked Bobby (McLachlan), they called me up and asked me to come back," said Cirkovic.

"I said that I would prefer to have a rest but they knew me too well. They knew that it wouldn't take much for me to go back to J.U.S.T."

"That club is a part of me. They brought me here in 1965 and now I'm very much settled in Australia. For that I owe J.U.S.T. a lot."

When Cirkovic returned to the coaching helm, he had problems. The atmosphere among the players

wasn't good and there was much press speculation about player unrest.

"A certain journalist kept writing stories about how the British players at J.U.S.T. weren't happy and wanted to leave. That same journalist hasn't been to a J.U.S.T. game since the club sacked his good friend Bobby McLachlan. I wonder why?"

"Anyway, what he wrote was rubbish. After my second or third training session the British players came up to me and told me that they were happy with my training. Everything has been great ever since. Believe me, no National League club has a better atmosphere, a better spirit among its players than we have at J.U.S.T."

"Everyone for me is just a player. I don't care if he's Scottish, English, Yugoslav, Australian or South American. Some people say to me: 'Cedo, you find it hard to work with British players. That's rubbish! Actually, if you want to know the truth, it's easier for me to work with British players than with Yugoslav players. If I have to push anyone, then it's usually the Yugoslav players because they sometimes think that because I am one of their countrymen I'll take things a bit easier with them.'"

When Cirkovic returned to J.U.S.T. most club officials were worried about being relegated from the National Conference. At the time, J.U.S.T. was 9th in the league, only two points above Sunshine-George Cross.

"Everyone was worried about being the last placed Victorian club and being relegated. Really, every result we got was a step forward for J.U.S.T. and recently the team has been playing so well that people no longer think about relegation. They now think about the finals. That situation is due to everyone connected with the club — the committee, the players, the team manager. We've had a good run and we've got to try and keep it going."

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

Let's look at the players who are poised to take J.U.S.T. into the finals and Cirkovic's view of them:

**DENNIS BOLAND** (Goalkeeper): "Everyone knows about Dennis. I think that the people who have ignored him for representative honors should be ashamed of themselves. He should have been in the national team years ago when everyone connected with soccer, except the national team coach, knew that he was the best goalkeeper in Australia."

**PETER HREHORESAN** (Goalkeeper): "A young boy who must work hard at his game. He's got every chance of making a name for himself once Dennis decides to call it a day. He's very promising this lad. I've let him off from training a few times this year because he's concentrating on his schoolwork but he's got a lot of potential."

**IGOR HAZABENT** (Defender): "You couldn't find a better clubman than Igor. He's a great player for J.U.S.T. He always marks the best player in the opposing side and he always does well. He's a marvellous competitor."

**SULEIMAN CUROVIC** (Defender): "He has everything going for him. He should develop into a top player and I will be very, very disappointed if he doesn't make it. The one thing he lapses into is holding the ball a bit too long but we're working on that."

**GRAHAM TUTTIL** (Defender): "When I came back this year Graham was injured, so I haven't seen a lot of him. From what I've seen he's the type of player who gives his all and it's really good to have him back. He can play in many positions so he's a very valuable part of the squad."

**GARY MCDOWELL** (Defender): "We've never had a leader like him since Frank Micic left. That's how highly I rate Gary. What a player he is. I feel sorry for



## Zika Nikolic: for 35 years a loyal clubman

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

**Zika Nikolic**  
Zika Nikolic remembers a game in the 1950's not long after J.U.S.T. had moved to a ground in Toorak. There were so many people at the game that the fencing round the playing arena fell down!

He also remembers what it was like to buy the "Sporting Globe" on a Saturday evening outside Flinders Street station two hours after J.U.S.T. had played and read a full match report of the game.

He thinks that he's J.U.S.T.'s longest serving member. Even the man they call Mr. J.U.S.T. — Tony Kovac — joined the club a year after Nikolic.

The founders of J.U.S.T. called Nikolic, among others, to a meeting in the Savoy Hotel, then in Russell Street in the city. It was 1949. He's been with the club ever since.

Nikolic has a dream for his beloved J.U.S.T. He sees the club maintaining some of its proud traditions but being administered by young, energetic businessmen and professional people. He says that if this doesn't happen, the club's future won't be secure.

"I hope to see young, well educated people taking over the running of the club. These people are there but right now they're not committed enough. That will come. They have Australian backgrounds, being born here of Yugoslav parents. That's very, very important because they will have good contacts in business and with the local council."

"We have a good name and a great tradition so these young people surely are attracted by that. I hope that they eventually take over and do an even better job than we did."

Nikolic was born in Knjazevac in Yugoslavia, near the Bulgarian border. He came to Australia in 1948 as a 24-year-old, in unusual circumstances.

"I wanted to go with friends to America but I was short-sighted and was rejected by the U.S. immigration people. Really, I never thought much about coming to Australia even though I applied to come here. Actually, I think someone somewhere made a mistake and failed to check up on my medical record. If they'd seen that I was short-sighted, they might have done

what the Americans did and refused to give me entry."

Nikolic had worked as a journalist in Yugoslavia and he's been writing for various publications in Australia and overseas since his arrival here. He also spent many years in Australia working as a book-keeper. He's married with a son and a daughter, who both are well established here.

Nikolic attended a soccer press meeting last week and got together with his old mate Jack Stephen for a good chinwag.

"We recalled the days when it was no big thing to play soccer on the MCG. I remember going to the MCG in 1949 to watch Hajduk play Australia and Victoria and in 1951 I went to the MCG to see England playing Australia."

"I remember when J.U.S.T. used to pay the players between three and five pound a game. And as for signing-on fees, well no one even thought about them back in those days. I think back then that it cost five shillings to get into our games."

"I remember Harold Holt presenting the Night Cup trophy to the winning team at the Showgrounds. You know, the old Night Cup competition was great. It was a terrific thing for families. Everyone used to talk about it and the newspapers used to cover it well, not like the poor coverage they give soccer nowadays. Something happened to soccer after the mid-1960's. Things have never been the same since. You know, J.U.S.T. used to have good crowds, really good crowds. A bad crowd back in those days would be about 3,000."

"I think we might have outstretched ourselves. We didn't go slowly, measuring each step. The big name players we brought here in the 1960's were great. They cost us a bit of money but at least they gave it back by the way they played. In more recent times, we've often brought out players to J.U.S.T. who have cost us big money and haven't given us much in return. That's made us much more cautious."

But J.U.S.T. hasn't had problems with imports this year. It only has brought out

Dragan Lacmanovic from Yugoslavia and he's been a success.

However, J.U.S.T. still isn't having as much success at the gate as it once enjoyed.

"We're not sure why the people won't come to our games. Maybe they're not happy with the facilities. We know that we still have a huge following because you meet so many people who talk about the club, but they don't go to the matches."

The vandals who attacked Schintler Reserve earlier this year, causing over \$20,000 worth of damage, really hurt the club.

"People started saying that if we couldn't protect ourselves then how could we protect them at our games. Maybe that's why our crowds haven't improved a lot even though we're playing very well right now."

"So far the team has exceeded my expectations. Then again, most of our players have been together for quite some time now. They're all experienced and all good players. What stands out a lot this year is the fighting spirit of the team. I knew that we'd do better than we did last year and if we can play in the finals, it will have been a great achievement."

It also will be a first for J.U.S.T., whose previous best finish in the National League was its 8th place finish in 1977, the first year of the competition.

Maybe fans unhappy with facilities at Schintler Reserve will have something to smile about soon, for J.U.S.T. has over \$25,000 in a building fund. Plans for a new social club already have received council approval. It's just a matter of J.U.S.T. adding to the building fund then work will start.

"I want to keep some of our tradition but we must eventually change the faces at the top. Many of us have been there for a long time. There always will be a place for us at the club but not as leaders. The new brigade must get involved."

There surely always will be a place for Nikolic at J.U.S.T. One of his many tasks at the club was to form juniors in 1960. He's been constantly involved in some kind of administrative capacity and he's always had the best interests of the club at heart. He's a life member of J.U.S.T., one of those who have stuck with the club through good times and bad.

## Meet the National Cup



• Footscray J.U.S.T. meets Melbourne Croatia in the National Cup (Wednesday). The other semi-final is between APIA and Newcastle-Rose J.U.S.T., above, is from left, standing: Tom Karic, Jim Tansey, 1 land, Graham Tuttil. Front: Jamie Paton, Suleiman Curovic, Joe Carroll, 1 Picture by LES SHORROCK.

J.U.S.T.'s honors:	
1950 — Third Division Champion	1968 — Ampol Cup winner
1951 — Second Division champion, Dockerty Cup winner.	1968 — Dockerty Cup winner
1955 — Ampol Cup winner	1969 — State League champion
1956 — Ampol Cup winner	1971 — State League champion
1957 — First Division champion, Ampol Cup winner.	1973 — State League champion
1960 — Ampol Cup winner, Australian Ampol Cup winner	1974 — State League Cup winner
1963 — State League champion	1975 — Ampol Cup winner, State League Cup winner.

## Karic

J.U.S.T. president Australia from Yugi married with a dau been a J.U.S.T. sup first became involve junior coach. Karic, as team man club's executive, He J.U.S.T. late in 1982 He's the managing di Real Estate Pty Ltd.

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# J.U.S.T.

at citizenship problems stop him from playing  
ustralia for he definitely is one of the best  
s in this country and from a coaching point of  
he's a pleasure to work with."

**TANSEY** (Defender): "I wish I had Jimmy in  
le years ago. It's stupid for me to talk about him  
ever because everyone connected with Australi-  
ceeg knows and respects him. He's a great  
and a great man."

**KYRIAKOULEAS** (Defender): "A real  
man and a fantastic player for the club to have.  
ally missed him for five weeks through injury  
se he's such a fierce competitor. He's fast, he's  
and he never knows when to give in."

**TKO BELIC** (Midfielder): "It was great news  
of us at J.U.S.T. to learn that Vlatko had been  
in the national squad. He's good in the air and  
on the ground. I've always believed in him.  
I first put him in the J.U.S.T. first team I was  
sed by some people but he's vindicated my judg-

**KARIC** (Midfielder): "He doesn't just im-  
every week, he improves day by day. He's going  
one of J.U.S.T.'s stars of the future, mark my  
He's good on the ball, he's got a good shot and  
terrific fighter."

**AN O'DONNELL** (Midfielder): "A very good  
A fine passer of the ball with a good shot  
never pick him as a British player. He plays  
like a continental player and he's played some  
ent games for us this year."

**IE PATON** (Forward): "He has more goal  
than anyone at the club. It's just bad luck for  
that he's had to carry an injury but once he  
recovers he'll be a great asset to us. Believe me,  
amie Paton is welcome in my team any time."

**JOE CARROLL** (Midfielder): "He's impressed me  
more than anyone this year. He's so good on the ball,  
in fact once he's got the ball it's very difficult to take  
it off him and he gives me everything out on the field.  
That's what every coach wants from a player."

**DRAGAN LACMANOVIC** (Forward): "A really,  
really big help to J.U.S.T. this year. After trying and  
failing at times to import good players from Yugos-  
lavia-it's a pleasure to have a player as good as Lac-  
manovic at J.U.S.T. He's easily one of the best  
players to come here. He's good in the air and good on  
the ground and he's very intelligent."

**ZDRAVKO LUJIC** (Forward): "Without him it  
would be hard for us to score. I estimate that maybe  
80 percent of our scoring moves involve him and I've  
never made any secret of my belief that when  
Zdravko Lujic plays well, J.U.S.T. plays well. He's  
fast, he's skilful — a fine player."

**TONY CABAN** (Midfielder or forward): "A very  
good worker, a young, promising player. I expect good  
things from him, especially next year after he's fully  
settled in. We signed him this year from Newcastle  
and really, it's up to him to show us what he can do.  
He's got a lot of ability."

**ARIEL PEREZ-REIGOSA** (Forward): "He has a  
really good future. He's not quite strong enough at  
present but we're going to set him a program of gym  
work where he'll work with weights to build up his  
strength. Like Peter Hrehorsan, he's spending a lot  
of time doing schoolwork."

**JAIME FERNANDEZ** (Forward): "A typical  
Chilean player — very, very skilful. Youngsters are  
given more of a chance at J.U.S.T. than at other clubs  
and I think he has a lot of potential."



• Rice • Ollerton • Picioane • Micic • Stankovic

## 16 Australian internationals

**Footscray J.U.S.T. has had  
13 Socceroos in its ranks and  
before the ASF was formed,  
J.U.S.T. stars Pepe Cubero,  
Tony Vella and Steve Za-  
komarak played for Australia.**

The following list shows the 13 Soc-  
ceroos who have played with J.U.S.T.

Figures after their names denote:  
number of appearances for the Socceroo  
"A" team; number of full internationals;  
goals for Australia and, where applicable,  
number of soccer "B" team appear-  
ances:

Doug Utjesenovic 61/34/2  
Peter Ollerton 55/30/20  
Jim Tansey 41/20/0  
Branko Buljevic 30/22/11

Archie Blue 12/10/4  
Frank Micic 9/7/0  
Billy Rice 7/5/0  
Jamie Paton 4/2/0  
Jim Milisavljevic 4/0/0  
Oscar Crino 3/2/0/28  
Joe Picioane 3/0/0  
Mendo Ristovski 3/1/0  
Tommy Stankovic 1/0/0



• Utjesenovic • Milisavljevic • Buljevic • Ristovski • Blue

## semi-finalists



p semi-finals at Olympic Park at 7.30 pm tonight  
id at St. George Stadium tonight.  
y Caban, Vlatko Belic, Gary McDowell, Dennis Bo-  
avko Lujic, Dragan Lecmanovic, Brian O'Donnell.

## heads committee

ka Karic came to  
via in 1987. He's  
r and a son. He's  
tor for years and  
with the club as a

In 1981, joined the  
came president of  
a three-year term  
or of Sun Crescent  
level.

Karic heads an 11-man executive.  
There are three vice-presidents — Zika  
Nikolic, Sveta Radovanov and Simon Turudia,  
who also is team manager.

Other executive members are:  
Harry Iser, treasurer-manager; Misa Vuka-  
dinovic, Zoran Bogdanovic, and Ratko Ma-  
rinkovic.

Lou Tonovski represents J.U.S.T. at NSL  
level.

# PRESENTING VLATKO BELIC: SOCCEROO



New Socceroo Vlatko Belic (left) takes on Mike O'Shea of St.  
George Budepest.

Vlatko Belic still was waiting on official  
notification of his selection in Frank Arok's  
preparatory squad of 28 for the Socceroos  
world tour later this year when I spoke to  
him last week.

"I've read in the papers that I've been selected. I  
hope that's correct and if it is I'm absolutely delig-  
hted. Surprised too. And proud. And I'll be working my  
guts out in the training camp to try and make the final  
22, I can tell you," said the 22-year old J.U.S.T. mid-  
fielder.

Belic was born in Novi Sad in Yugoslavia and came  
to Australia in 1970. He's been at J.U.S.T. since join-  
ing the under-13's.

It was Pepe Dugino who coached Belic as a junior.  
"He was the first coach I had. I learned the basics  
from him, so I owe him a lot."

Belic made his debut for the J.U.S.T. seniors in  
1978, but it was his only senior game that season. It  
wasn't until the 1980 season that he established him-  
self and during Rocci Ile's coaching stint at J.U.S.T.  
Belic worked hard at training, often doing extra ses-  
sions with Ile.

Belic has had a few offers from other clubs over the  
past few seasons but refused to name them. He's  
contracted to J.U.S.T. until December 1985.

"It's been hard at times to stay with the club be-  
cause we've never had success in the National Leag-  
ue. Every player wants to play in a winning team and  
I think that it's about time that J.U.S.T. won some-  
thing."

"We've always been a middle-of-the-table side but  
I really believe that we can get success this year,  
either in the National Cup or in the top five com-  
petition. Yes, this is as good a year as any to win  
something."

Belic has played in almost every position at J.U.S.T.  
Although he's probably at his best in midfield, he  
prefers playing up front. He loves to score goals.  
That's probably because that sort of occurrence is a  
rarity.

He used to greet opposing officials at away games  
with: "Victor Belic is the name and scoring goals is  
the game."

At least you can't question Belic's sense of humor.  
You also can't question his tremendous appetite for  
the game and his powerful running ability. He's got  
the sort of steel to impress Arok as a midfielder and it  
will be his greatest achievement to date should he  
win a place in the final 22.  
Everyone at J.U.S.T. is hoping that Belic makes it.

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all the very best*



VSF



## F'ston Pines 3 Polonia 3

Scorers: Cumming 21st, 70th, Wilson 58th (P); Gibson 33rd, Gilder 35th, Przybyla 47th (Pol).  
Venue: Monterey Boulevard.

Polonia kissed the 1984 State League title goodbye on Saturday in a tragedy-comedy of hits and misses against Frankston Pines.

Polonia really should have won with ease, but nothing went right. It lost a player early, gave away three silly goals, led at one time 3-1, and then should have been awarded a penalty in the last minute.

Before the game started, Polonia player-coach John Gardiner told me he'd taken one look at the heavy ground and decided to sit on the bench. He didn't sit there very long.

The game was only seven minutes old when Kevin Innes was on a stretcher and on his way to hospital with a suspected broken leg, which happily turned out to be no more than a severe bruise.

Gardiner went on into mid-

Polonia's ace striker and leading scorer Janusz Przybyla tries to shield the ball from this challenge by Frankston Pines' fullback Steve Beech (right) at Monterey Boulevard last Saturday. In the background is Pines' sweeper Jimmy Wilson. The match ended in a 3-3 draw. Picture by LES SHORROCK.

field, in what is probably his last season as a player, and although all the old elegance still was apparent, the legs don't respond as quickly any more, and he was often caught in possession.

In the 20th minute the alert John Cumming slammed home a ball that should have been cleared to put Pines ahead.

But Polonia replied quickly with a classic goal as Danny McCuskey intercepted, pushed the ball forward for Noel Mitten on the left and his accurate cross was headed home by Dave Gibson.

Headed goals by the diminutive Gibson are as rare as sightings of Halley's Comet, and this one was a collector's item.

Two minutes later, the Pines' defence got itself in a terrible tangle and eventually Carl Gilder put it out of its

misery, banging the ball home from close range to put Polonia in front.

During the interval, Polonia received the cheering news that Morwell Falcons was a goal behind Western Suburbs down in the Valley, and no doubt felt there was a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel.

It must have been a spur of some sort, because straight after the interval, courtesy of a bad back-pass by John Cullen, Janusz Przybyla put Polonia 3-1 up, and the Reds were coasting, it seemed, to an easy victory.

But Fate, in the unlikely shape of Polonia goalkeeper Paul Fryzser, deemed otherwise.

First he somehow allowed a harmless-looking, speculative attempt by Jimmy Wilson to slip under him for Pines' second goal.

Then he combined with the previously immaculate Gibson to fashion the most ludicrous goal imaginable.

Polonia was content to knock the ball around at the back, to lure Pines forward for a counter-attack, and of course to protect its lead.

With Gibson in possession, Fryzser ran right across the penalty area, probably for a pass-back, but with a sudden rush of blood to the head, Gibson committed the unforgivable sin for a defender, and knocked the ball square across the box, right to the feet of Cumming, all alone on the penalty spot.

Cumming couldn't believe his luck, topped his shot and the ball bobbed towards goal as Fryzser raced back desperately. Fryzser arrived on the goal-line just before the ball, but it wriggled through his hands like a greasy pig and into the net, and the Pines' players, convulsed with mirth, almost forgot to congratulate

Cumming. Nobody congratulated Fryzser.

That seemed to be that, but there was more to come. Przybyla made his only other notable contribution when he allowed Dave Stutchbury to bring him down inside the penalty area, in the very last minute.

Polonia players leapt excitedly and the Pines' players looked suitably dejected. But referee John Wrenn went over to the scene of the crime, and awarded a free-kick outside the area.

After the game, Pines' coach Danny McMinimee, delighted at having upset another top team in successive home matches, said that Polonia should definitely have been awarded a penalty.

Without belaboring the point, it's obvious that defensive weaknesses have cost Polonia dearly. It has scored 33 goals, more than any other club in the league, but it has also conceded 33, an average of 1.5 per game, whilst Morwell Falcons, with Billy Worsley in superb form in goal, has conceded a miserly 11 goals.

### Buffalo State League ladder

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MORWELL F.....	15	6	1	45	11	36
FAWKNER.....	13	5	4	52	29	31
POLONIA.....	12	7	3	53	33	31
BOX HILL.....	11	8	3	41	25	30
Northcote.....	11	2	9	47	34	24
West. Suburbs.....	9	4	9	39	45	22
F'ston Pines.....	5	10	7	27	34	20
Albion Rovers.....	7	6	8	20	27	20
R. Wilhelmina.....	6	7	8	33	33	19
Knox City.....	6	5	11	27	48	17
Croydon.....	7	2	12	24	33	16
Broadmeadows.....	5	4	13	23	43	14
St. Alb. Dinamo.....	3	7	12	26	43	13
Doveton.....	3	5	13	22	38	11

ALBION ROVERS 2 (Bouzas 5th, 80th) ST. ALBANS DINAMO 1 (Morovic 35th) at Solwyn Park, Saturday.

ALBION ROVERS: Bryden 5 — Gatt 8, D'Silva 8, Gilmour 7, Douglas 7 — Galea 6, Reilly 7, Alfonso 6 (McMorrow 80th) — Bouzas 8, Purcell 7, Robertson 6 (Rodrigues 75th). Coach: Bill McIntyre.

ST. ALBANS DINAMO: Dabuljuh 7 — Kustura 7, Ramjak 6, Radman 6, Jutrisa 6 (Mecanovic 75th) — Brljakic 8, Batinovic 7, Rastocic 7 (Pavlovic 85th), Kuzman 7 — Morovic 8, Culina 7. Coach: Joe Spojar.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Gatt (Albion), 2. Brljakic (St. Al), 1. D'Silva (Albion).

MORWELL FALCONS 2 (Moore 47th, Atherych 49th) WESTERN SUBURBS 1 (Coyle 42nd) at North Crinigan Reserve, Saturday.

MORWELL FALCONS: Whiteside 7 — Bingham 6, Higham 7, Bruns 6, Train 7 — Webster 6 (T. van Baar H.T.), Moore 7, MacLean 7, O'Callaghan 7 — Atherych 8, Stinton 8. Coach: Jimmy Dunne.

WESTERN SUBURBS: Tachris 6 — Matheou 6, Exposito 7, Dimakopoulos 7, Hamill 7 — Christodoulou 7, Mousal 8, Coyle 8, Lazaropoulos 8, Stenson 7 (in Diliberto 75th), Filippis 7 (Constantinidis 80th). Coach: Jimmy Condilis.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Atherych (Morw.), 2. Mousal (WS), 1. Lazaropoulos (WS).

FRANKSTON PINES 3 (Cumming 20th, 71st, Wilson 58th) POLONIA 3 (Gibson 33rd, Gilder 35th, Przybyla 47th) at Monterey Boulevard, Saturday.

FRANKSTON PINES: Stutchbury 5 — Thurlow 8, Cullen 6, Wilson 6, Gough 6 — Lucca 6, Cooke 6, Ross 6, Thomas 6 — Dick 7 (Rust 50th), Cumming 7, Coach: Danny McMinimee.

POLONIA: Fryzser 3 — Liparski 6, McCuskey 6, Mita 7, Smolarek 7 — Gibson 8, Tront 5, Innes (in Gardiner 7th), Mitten 6 — Gilder 5, Przybyla 5. Coach: John Gardiner.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Gibson (Pol), 2. Thurlow (Pines), 1. Dick (Pines).

BROADMEADOWS 0 KNOX CITY 0 at Laura Douglas Reserve, Saturday.

BROADMEADOWS: Grech 5 — Smart 4, Donaldson 6, Ellis 6, Desa 4 (Stokols 45th), 5 — Watson 4, Horfink 4, Blair 7 — Vaccaro 4, Simic 5, Campbell 5 (Acosta 77th). Coach: Jimmy McIntyre.

KNOX CITY: Brian 5 — Stoffels 4, Bissinger 4, Lesbire 5, Dixon 5 — Wild 6, stick 4 (Gerish 70th), Murray 5, Smith 6 — Masters 4, House 5. Coach: Eric Lesbire.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Blair (Broad), 2. Smith (Knox), 1. Donaldson (Broad).

BOX HILL 5 (Hennessy 15th, Smith 59th, Valentine 70th, Priestley 75th, Azopardi 80th) DOVETON 3 (Hughes o.g. 46th, Nelson 78th, Watson penalty 85th) at Wembley Park, Sunday.

BOX HILL: McKinlay 7 — J. Roodhouse 7, Brooks 7, Brownlie 7, A. Roodhouse 7 (Davidson 82nd) — Azopardi 7, Hennessy 6, Hughes 6, Valentine 8 — Priestley 8, Smith 8. Coach: Bill Murray.

DOVETON: Radov 8 — McLeod 7, Dixey 6, Gadsby 6, Fitzpatrick 6 — Buchanan 6, M. McDonald 8 (Sutherland 81st), Edmondson 7 (Douglas 81st), Watson 8, J. McDonald 6, Nelson 7. Coach: Ian Williamson.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Storm (RW), 2. Quigley (North), 1. Haupt (RW).

CROYDON 1 (Boyle o.g. 87th) FAWKNER 2 (Cozzella 1st, Palinkas 35th) at Croydon Park, Sunday.

CROYDON: Kastner 9 — Rainey 8, Kerr 8, Bates 7, Ormond 7, Tait 6 (Livingstone 77th), Brewerton 8, Singleton 8, Irvine 7 (Killey 35th), 6 Griffiths (sent off 30th), Loughnane 8. Coach: Colin Hasler.

FAWKNER: Terzini 7 — Giacomi 8, Angelo 7, Boyle 6, Hobson 7 — La 7, Bannan 8, Garvey 8 — Palinkas 8, Tuffield 7, Cozzella 7. Coach: Gus Macleod.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Kastner (Croy), 2. Palinkas (Fawk), 1. Bannan (Fawk).

## SCHIPANO AWARD

Schipano Home Furnishers are sponsoring our 1984 State League Player of the Year award.

The winner receives a \$1,000 worth of furniture of his choice. Votes are cast on a 3-21 basis for each league game. In the event of a tie, the player making the least number of appearances will be declared the winner.

Leading votegetters:  
29 — Smith (Box Hill)  
20 — Quigley (North)  
19 — MacLean (Morw.), Lazopoulos (WS)  
18 — Burton (Fawk)  
17 — Tuffield (Wilhel), Mita (Pol), Stenson (WS)  
16 — Culina (St A)  
15 — D'Silva (Albion), Moore (Morw)

## VSF Travel Club award

The VSF Travel Club, in conjunction with Ametco Travel, is sponsoring our 1984 State League Top Scorer award.

The winner receives a return trip to Singapore, flying Thai International.

Leading scorers:  
20 — Smith (Box Hill)  
16 — Moore (Morw), Przybyla (Pol)  
15 — Tuffield (Fawk)  
14 — Stinton (Morw), Cozzella (Fawk)  
13 — House (Knox), Lazopoulos, Coyle (WS)

John Gardiner

## LAST CHANCE FOR DOVETON TO CATCH UP TO ST. ALBANS DINAMO

The State League spotlight falls on the big relegation battle between St. Albans Dinamo and Broadmeadows at Churchill Reserve this Saturday and I'm tipping a draw.

That will be a good result for Broadmeadows and keep its nose a point ahead of Dinamo. Bottom placed Doveton gets what looks like one of its last chances to bridge the gap between it and Dinamo when it takes on 5th placed Northcote at Waratah Reserve on Sunday.

## Tyranny of distance

It is not unusual for coaches to travel across the city of Melbourne to their clubs, but travelling from Albury (a round trip of about 500 kilometres) is definitely out of the ordinary.

For the last three and a half months Sunbury coach Norrie Ford has been making this trip twice a week for Thursday night training and Saturday or Sunday matches.

## METRO DIV. 2

ELTHAM 5 (M. Cirka penalty 25th, P. Cirka 55th, Woodward 59th, Norton 76th, 92nd) PRAHRAN SLAVIA \* (Lopez penalty 54th) at North Eltham, Saturday.

ELTHAM: Carey 7, Hadzic 7, M. Cirka 8, Raynes 8, DeLany 7, Woodward 7, P. Cirka 7 (Curcija 81st), Cubley 8 (Briggs 70th), Fitzgerald 7, Norton 7, Schipano 7. PRAHRAN SLAVIA: Morales 7, Romero 6, Ruboi 7, Bracciale 6, Nikolic 8, Drincovsky 8, Rios 7, Vezoso 8, Alvares 6, Lopez 7, Medina 6.

"When I changed my job and moved to Albury it would have been easy to resign," said Ford. "But I hate leaving anything unfinished and as far as I'm concerned the task finishes at the end of the season."

"The committee at Sunbury only wanted to know if I could cope with the travelling. After that I had their full support for the necessary changes that had to be made to training."

Sunbury secretary Peter Hobbs said: "No-one could ask for greater dedication than Norrie has shown this season. To me it demonstrates not only how low the game but his true club spirit."

"We will really be sorry to see him leave the club, but I guess that distance has finally beaten him."

Sunbury now is actively seeking a senior coach for the 1985 season (see advert, page seven), and hopes to make an appointment before the end of November.

shackle Colin Quigley, one of the finest midfielders in State League, it will take a lot of pressure off its defence.

The Doves will rely on their "older" brigade to carry them through against the Northcrans. There's a lot of quality and experience in players like Billy Buchanan, Gerry Edmondson, Graham Watson, Jim Nelson, Matt McDonald, Steve Gadsby and Mike Dixey.

Provided they go into this match fiercely committed to the club's cause, then Doveton can triumph.

But-back to the Dinamo V. Broadmeadows clash.

Steve Ellis played well last week in Broadmeadows' 6-0 draw with Knox and here he'll find himself up against Dennis Morovic, Dinamo's leading marksman. Morovic has had a fine season since switching from left back to the central striker's role and his clash against Ellis, his old team

mate at Sunshine, will have an important influence on the outcome.

Stuart Blair easily has been Broadmeadows' best buy this season. In fact, it wouldn't surprise to see Blair joining a National League club next year. He's a real workhorse in midfield and provided he gets good support from George Watson and Ron Horfink, Broadmeadows will win enough of the ball to allow Paul Simic to put the Dinamo defence under the hammer.

Polonia and Box Hill, once leading championship contenders, meet at Raleigh Reserve on Sunday and I'm going for the Hillmen, who seem to play so much better against the good sides.

Morwell might drop a point to Ringwood Wilhelmina at Jubilee Park on Sunday. Wilhelmina is tough to beat at home, just ask Fawcner, and the fine

## CONWAY THE STAR

KEW O THOMASTOWN 0 at Stradbroke Park, Saturday.

KEW: Green 8, Conway 10, Phillips 9, Smale 9, Houston 8, Phillips 8, Brown 8, Parsons 7, Droughe 7, Wild 6, Henderson 6 (Koukouras 85th).

THOMASTOWN: Rapoti 6, Constantine 7, Di Bena 7, Corner 7, Adam 7, Acsaki 8, Di Martino 6, Westera 7, Coyle 8, Lalic 7 (Dallas 83rd), Flaherty 8 (Frangile 80th).

Kew maintained its fine recent form with this result against the league leader and although Thomastown dominated for long periods it was Kew which came closest to winning with powerful shots from Mark Krsevan and

Steve Brown, the latter hitting the bar in the 20th minute from a free kick just outside the Thomastown area.

Kew's defenders contained Thomastown's Brendan Lalic and Brian Flaherty, both of whom were substituted, but an outstanding Kew performer was young Ron Conway, who surely is one of the finest full back prospects in Metro soccer.

— MICK MITTEN

## SELECTIONS

METROPOLITAN DIVISION ONE  
Saturday: THOMASTOWN vs Sunbury;  
SPRINGFIELD CITY vs Ball Park; NUNAWADING CITY vs Altona City; NORTH DANDENONG vs Kew.

SUNDAY: RICHMOND vs Altona City; Morwell vs Melbourne (draw); Wertheim vs DONCASTER ROVERS.

DIVISION TWO  
Saturday: Kallie vs 5TH MELB MORALIC; SANORINGHAM vs North Geelong; WANWELLY CITY vs Dandenong City; Ringwood United vs CALLEDGE CITY; SOUTH DALLISTON vs Eltham; Pines vs COBURG; MORRINGTON vs Heidelberg Bunnies.

DIVISION THREE  
Saturday: Bulbin vs PORT MELBOURNE; Macraebark vs HAMILTON RANGERS; Moorabbin City vs PRAHRAN CITY; KARULICA vs Royal Richmond; DEELONG vs Ardeer; ESDENHORN CITY vs Brighton; CORIO vs Yallourn.

DIVISION FOUR  
Saturday: Kaysborough vs LALOR UNITED; YADRAVILLE vs Holland Park (Edwards Reserve); SPRINGVILLE UNITED vs East Brunswick; RUSSELL vs BORDERS; RESERVA vs CILHAN Hill; Langwarrin vs Greenborough; FERNETREE GULLY vs Hawthorn PROVISIONAL.

DIVISION ONE  
Saturday: MALVERN CITY vs West Geelong; Monash Unit vs BALLARAT; Carlton vs CALINGINDIA; MELTON vs Chelms; CENTRAL CITY vs Clyde; West Brunswick vs HAWKSBURN.

SUNDAY: VERNMONT vs West United; Old Scotch College vs WEST MEADOWS; RM.LT. vs Concordia; PHILLIP INSTITUTE vs Eagles United; SOUTH SPRINGVALE vs Northern Suburbs.

DIVISION THREE  
Sunday: LALOR CITY vs Ringwood Rovers; COLLINGWOOD vs Hare United; Lalee vs MELBOURNE UNITED; BIDDERS REST vs Collingwood City.

SUNDAY: GEELONG UNITED vs Unit of Melbourne; SOUTH YARRA vs Norwood United; SOUTH DANDENONG vs Abdon United; REGENT vs Berrwick City; PASCOE VALE vs Camberwell; Kew vs Fitzroy City.

DIVISION THREE  
Saturday: NORTH SUNSHINE vs Port United; West Melbourne vs DALLAS CITY; SEAROE vs HENDALL; Diamond Valley vs DINGLEY; Burnwood United vs CLARINDA; KNOXING; SPRINGVALE CITY vs HAMPTON HANGERS; MELTON vs Lyndale.

DIVISION FOUR  
Saturday: EPPING THISTLE vs South Parkmore; Parkmore vs ASCOT VALE CITY; MILLERAY vs Barmen United; Moolah vs WESTALL.

AMATEUR LEAGUE  
DIVISION ONE  
Sunday: MELBOURNE UNIT vs North Melbourne; Cheltenham vs WANWELLY UNITED; Melburn Park vs ASCOT ST MARKS; Macauli vs BALZARVA; Lalee vs LALOR CITY; ENDAVOUR HILLS vs BUNNIE.

DIVISION TWO  
Sunday: VERNMONT vs West United; Old Scotch College vs WEST MEADOWS; RM.LT. vs Concordia; PHILLIP INSTITUTE vs Eagles United; SOUTH SPRINGVALE vs Northern Suburbs.

DIVISION THREE  
Sunday: LALOR CITY vs Ringwood Rovers; COLLINGWOOD vs Hare United; Lalee vs MELBOURNE UNITED; BIDDERS REST vs Collingwood City.

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# Moves to nosedive

By MICK MITTEN

## Box Hill 5 Doveton 3

Scorers: Hennessy 15th, Smith 50th, Valentine 70th, Priestley 75th, Azopardo 80th (BH); Hughes o.g. 46th, Nelson 78th, Watson penalty 85th (D).

Venue: Wombey Park.  
Keith Valentine will remember this match for quite some time. He only came into the starting line-up at the last minute due to injury to Brian Keenan but Valentine turned in a superb performance in midfield, scoring a goal and setting up another in what turned out to be a very lively eight goal battle.

The Doves trained at 9am on the day of this match and quite understandably looked a tired side. It only was the lion-hearted efforts of Matt McDonald, Graham Watson and Jim Nelson that stopped Doveton from getting a hiding.

Which makes the substitution of McDonald in the 61st minute entirely inexplicable. But it doesn't really matter, does it? I mean, Doveton already looks like a club which is relegated. It could field just 10 players in the reserves and a few weeks ago it wasn't even able to field a reserve team.

There's an aura of gloom about Doveton and in my book, it is a dead cert to finish in one of the last two positions in the league.

In the 15th minute, Valentine crossed from the left. Steve Smith was at the far post and headed the ball back across goal. Paul Priestley headed onto the bar and Dean Hennessy headed home the rebound to make it 1-0 for Box Hill.

The Doves hit back in the 46th minute. From a free on the right, Watson headed on and Andy Hughes, under fierce pressure from Nelson, headed into his own goal.

But Smith restored the Hillmen's lead in the 59th minute. You can't leave a striker of his



Box Hill midfielder Keith Valentine

quality free at the far post. The Doves found that out when he headed in, unopposed, from a Valentine free kick after Priestley had fouled just outside the area.

Valentine won the ball after Smith had crossed from the right in the 70th minute and the Box Hill midfielder rolled the ball past Radov to make it 3-1.

Priestley extended the lead five minutes later. He robbed Tom Fitzpatrick on the right and mistook a cross intended for Smith. The ball went in at the near post.

Nelson's fiercely struck free kick in the 78th minute deflected off Don Brownlie and beat John McKinlay to make it 4-2 but two minutes later Ian Rodhouse, after a fine run, found Dave Azopardo who si-deflected home at the near post to restore the Hillmen's three goal cushion.

Dave Brooks fouled Nelson inside the area in the 83th minute and referee Chris Bambridge (why wasn't he doing an NSL game?) pointed to the spot. Watson converted to wrap up the scoring.

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
INTER MONARO.....	13	5	3	58	25	31
MANLY WARR.....	11	8	2	41	14	30
ROCKDALE ILINDEN	13	4	4	42	21	30
SUTHERLAND.....	11	5	5	34	19	27
Auburn Uruguay.....	8	8	5	17	15	24
Ku-Ring-Gai.....	6	7	8	25	32	19
Polonia.....	6	5	10	21	31	17
Avala.....	5	6	10	31	43	16
Narabeen.....	6	4	11	24	40	16
Canterbury.....	5	6	10	18	40	16
Yugal.....	3	7	11	24	29	13
Bankstown.....	4	5	12	22	48	13

## THIS WEEK

Sunday: Hurstville Oval: Rockdale Ilinden v Manly; Marco Polo: Inter Monaro v Avala; Mona Park: Auburn Uruguay v Bankstown National; Arlington: Canterbury v Sutherland; Yugal v Ku-Ring-Gai (venue to be decided); Narabeen: Narabeen v Polonia.

## TOP SCORERS

- 16 —Valeri (IM)
- 15 —Brown (RI)
- 10 —Jeffery (K), O'Shana (Aub), Giampaolo (IM), Leak (MW)
- 9 —Milne (Av), Holloway (MW)
- 8 —Budini (Av)
- 7 —Monterosso (IM), Stuart (MW), Groome (S), Jesic (Y)
- 6 —Willox (IM), Sobczyk (P)
- 5 —Douniss (C), Djordjeviski, Colbertaldo (IM), Webber (S), Karanfilovski, Jones (RI), McGrath (Y), Sandtner (N)
- 4 —Dean, Bullock (N), Hassan (B), Bass (K), Pagano (MW), Galas (P), Gray (S), Risteviski (RI)

## POLONIA 0 AUBURN URUGUAY 1 (O'Shana 78th) at Chopin Park.

POLONIA: Barker 6 — Pratt 6, Galas 8, Fogarty 7, Divani 7, — Resmussen 6 (Lasek 68th), Kowalczyk 7, Lumsdaine 7, Nowak 7, — Sobczyk 7, Ovcarek (Anderson 6th — 6).

AUBURN URUGUAY: Rosano 7, Kelly 7, Watt 7, Planinic 7, Geekie 8, — Akoutas 9, Carney 7, Parfitt 7 (87th Gale), Townson 6 (Maccanald 82nd), — Knight 7, O'Shana 6.

## MANLY WARRINGAH 0 YUGAL 0 at Fraser Park.

MANLY: Cassettari 7, — Pearce 7, J. Dick 7, S. Dick 7, Williamson 7, — Jones 8, Stevens 9, Leak 6, — Panes 6, Pagano 6, Stuart 6, — YUGAL: Barry 7, — Marco 8, Tomasich 8, Clarke 9, Gibson 6, — Coldarevic 7, Jesic 7 (Mihajlovic 75th), Zivkovic 7, — Rodas 7, Tharnides 7, Tanovski 8.

## NARABEEN 3 (Sandtner 2nd, Sorge 25th, A. Dean 80th) AVALA 2 (Bratkovic 35th, Rodrigues 50th) at Narabeen.

NARABEEN: P. Dean 7, — Hanley 6, Mahoney 7, Rylands 8, Collings (Earl 25th), — Sorge 7, Garrett 6, Griffin 5 (Jack 46th — 7), — Bullock 5, Sandtner 6, A. Dean 7.

AVALA: Thurlow 5, Ahrens 46th — 7), — Lembyrk 6, Budini 7, Mackenzie 6, Milne 6, — Dumjak 8, Kodor 7, Williams 7, — Bete-man 7, Rodrigues 8, Bratkovic 7.

# Yugal fights to avoid the drop

## Yugal might yet avoid relegation.

Following its gutsy 0-0 draw with Manly Warringah at Fraser Park, Yugal has moved away from the last spot on the league ladder on goal average from Bankstown with one round of the Premiership remaining.

Manly ran into problems during the opening period and never recovered. Yugal always was equal to the task of holding Manly and had the "dark blues" collected both points it would have been no surprise.

With minutes remaining in this match and with the goal at his mercy, Toma Mihajlovic, Yugal's most



Leading State League scorer Walter Valeri of Inter Monaro, seen in action for his former club APIA Leichhardt.



## NSW State League with ALEX VESIC

experienced player, failed to find the net.

We must wait for this weekend's games to find out who will drop to the lower level of competition.

At the top of the table the race is almost over. Inter Monaro is one point ahead and will meet Avala at Queanbeyan and a win will take it to its first State League championship. Steve Lalic of Avala is not so sure that his side will lose and is giving Manly and Rockdale an outside chance of pipping Inter at the post.

## Polonia 0 Auburn 1

Scorer: O'Shana 28th.  
Venue: Chopin Park.

Tony O'Shana, Auburn's star striker, with 10 goals to his name this season, scored a fine goal to give his side a narrow but deserved victory.

Chris Townson found O'Shana with a well directed pass after 28 minutes and O'Shana sped past a defender before lobbing Barker to give Auburn the lead.

Auburn showed a lot of discipline in this match and could have come away with a much better result. George Akoutas played his best match to date, while Ron Geekie had a field day against his old club.

Neal Parfitt, George Akoutas and Ray Carney made some inroads in midfield and with just a little more penetration up front goals could have come at a faster rate.

O'Shana had two first half chances apart from

scoring a goal, while Henjek Sobczyk hit the post for Polonia during the same period. David Watt hit the net during the second half then came a couple of close shaves for Auburn in the closing stages with Pratt shooting straight at Rosano from dead in front.

## Yugal 0

## Manly Warr 0

Venue: Fraser Park.

Manly needed to win by better than six goals, while Yugal needed to hold on for a point. For Manly it was a golden opportunity to overhaul Inter Monaro at the expense of Yugal.

However, Yugal proved a far tougher proposition and should it repeat this performance against Ku-Ring-Gai then no fears will be held for the safety of this side in the State League.

For Manly, very few performances caught the eye with Tom Stevens an exception. He tried hard and played well enough to always threaten the home side. However, Steven could not do much on his own.

Had Mihajlovic been on the mark in the 85th minute the result could have been worse for the home side. Embarrassingly so!

## Narabeen 3 Avala 2

Scorers: Sandtner 2nd, Sorge 25th, A. Dean 80th, Bratkovic 35th, Rodrigues 50th.

Venue: Narabeen Fitness Centre.

Five goals meant entertainment galore at Narabeen and this surprise win by the home team has lifted the side to safety in the middle of the league ladder.

Avala had most of the play and was most unlucky to lose this match. After going down to goals by Sandtner and Sorge, Avala came back, strongly to score through Mick Bratkovic and go to the dressing rooms at half time 1-0 down.

Soon after half time, Avala was on equal terms through Rodrigues and the way the side was playing it seemed only a matter of time before Avala would score again.

However, Mick Bratkovic was amongst the culprits, missing a lot of chances as well as hitting the woodwork twice. This youngster was also in position to pass to his team mates but elected to hang onto the ball at crucial times eliminating that slender advantage that Avala had.

And while Bratkovic could be excused on the basis of his youth, it is difficult to understand why Nikola Duvnjak, an experienced international, also held onto the ball for far too long.

With 10 minutes to go, Allan Dean, better known around Narabeen as "Skipper" hopped in to score Narabeen's third goal minutes from time to give the home side a most unexpected finish in its first year in State League.

# GRUFFIES SENT OFF

By JOHN WALLACE

## Croydon 1 Fawkner 2

Scorers: Boyle o.g. 87th (Croy); Cozzella 1st, Palinkas 35th (F).

Venue: Croydon Park.  
If State League soccer regularly put on the show seen at Croydon Park on Sunday grounds wouldn't be large enough to accommodate the crowds.

Lou Kastner, Croydon's custodian, put on a display of exceptional goalkeeping that had Fawkner's strikers shaking their heads in disbelief.

After just one minute Bruno Cozzella headed home from a precise cross by Neil Garvey and that was Fawkner's third shot at goal. Before the half hour, Kastner had palmed away shots by Ged Bannan and Joe Palinkas and Dave Griffiths of Croydon was sent off after clashing with Fawkner goalie Robert Terzini.

Cozzella was the architect of Fawkner's second goal which split Croydon's defence. Joe

Palinkas, daring forward, gave the hard working Kastner no chance to make it 2-0.

Although now reduced to 10 men, Croydon's second half assault was tremendous. David Singleton was a marvel in his new forward position and with Peter Killey and Ian Loughnane running riot in Fawkner's defence it seemed only a matter of time before Croydon scored.

However Fawkner was in no mood to lose out and struck back. Kastner, having had treatment on three occasions from trainer Roy Howard, never faltered, and topped off his display with an acrobatic one handed save to deny Peter Boyle from the penalty spot.

Croydon, improving by the minute, pinned the visitors in their own half and Fawkner's defence crumbled. Loughnane bursting clear on the left wing and squaring for Tom Brewerton in the 87th minute, Boyle tried to intercept but only managed to head past his own keeper, to complete the scoreline.

# Deane, West strike

NUNAWADING CITY 2 (Deane 30th, West 60th) ALTONA CITY 0 at Mahoney's Reserve Saturday.

NUNAWADING CITY: Fansham, Greenwald, Brown, Deane, Burt, Mullett, Bakker, Nelson, West, Van Egmond, Font.

ALTONA CITY: Reber, Leonard, Wilson (Kearney 65th), Seaton, Gramsberger, Dorwood, Pisan, Hannell, Beattie, Thompson, Hinds (Gashi 97th).

Nunawading City gained two valuable points in its fight for survival with a strong team performance. At the same time it put renewed pressure on Altona City which now has dropped to third from the bottom.

In the 21st minute, a fine move involving Bakker, Greenwald and Mullett saw Van Egmond in a position to score but his header went past the far post. Altona's best chance of the half came when

Deane broke clear on the left, and his cross went to Dorwood who shot narrowly wide on the turn.

The deadlock was broken in the 30th minute when Van Egmond, on the right, beat his defender and his cross found Deane who headed neatly over Reber.

In the 60th minute, Bakker collected the ball 25 metres out and his fierce shot thudded against the bar. West was on hand to slam home the rebound. Shortly after, Van Egmond beat Reber only to see the ball strike the foot of the post and rebound to safety.

At this stage, Altona came into the game, with Leonard involved in many forward moves.

Fortunately for Nunawading, Fansham was in fine form, making one desperate save to foil Beattie, and generally showing a safe pair of hands.



## PUBLICITY FOR ALL

"Soccer Action" invites clubs to send in comprehensive details of their matches.

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## SCORELINE

(With names of teams, score, scorers and times of goals in brackets after each team's name):.....

## LINE-UPS

(With both line-ups, ratings out of 10, substitutions and times, and send offs if required):.....

## Queensland the favorite

Northern NSW defends its title this week in the national under-16 championships at the Sydney Athletic Field.

Although Queensland goes into the championships as favourite the NSW side, pictured above, is strong and well drilled.

The picture shows, back row: Ron Corry (coach); Jason Van Blerk (from APIA); Paul Edmunds (Auburn); Antoine Avellino (Ku-Ring-Gai); Ron Genoves (Melita); Keith Warren (St. George); Paul Quarmby (Blacktown); Peter Brown (Blacktown); Jim Giffin (team manager). Middle row: Anthony Parison (APIA); Scott Ollershaw (St. George); Steve Chilas (Sydney Olympic); Nick Genaris (Sydney Olympic); Rafael Mravunac (Marconi). Front row: Anthony Clark; Nick Oustambasidis (Sydney Olympic); Anthony George (St. George); Wayne Levi (Marconi).

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By CRAIG MACKENZIE

**It's time. At long, long last the real Micky D'Sylva is about to stand up and be counted.**

He's heading off to the NSL arena next year, leaving the tag of being a "promising youngster" far behind.

He's going into the NSL after a season in which he's earned a reputation as a quality sweeper in the Victorian State League.

At the end of this season his club Albion Rovers will honor him with a testimonial. And D'Sylva's just 24 years old!

So why has he stayed at Albion since 1972? "I've often asked myself that question. When things haven't been going well at the club and when I've been going through a bad patch I've thought that a change is just what I needed but I never made a move. Maybe I lacked confidence. Maybe I didn't think that I was good enough and I'd just hang around Albion for a bit longer. I almost signed with Northcote this season and in other years I've had chances to go to George Cross, Green Gully and Heidelberg.

"When Gully approached me it was about halfway through the season and I don't think they were too pleased when I turned them down. I think I might have done my dash there but there are other clubs, and I'm really going to give the National League a go next year."

It's been a season of change for D'Sylva. Having built a reputation as a skilful, if sometimes inconsistent forward, he found himself being switched to the sweeper's position by Albion coach Bill McIntyre. It's a move which has paid off handsomely, for both Albion and D'Sylva.

"I've always wanted to play sweeper and I wasn't playing well up front so I needed a change. I really enjoy the freedom of playing sweeper, of having a lot more time to do things with the ball."

D'Sylva was born in Madras in India. He came to Australia in 1967 and played Australian Rules for Sunshine West High School until his mates lured him to Albion. He played both soccer and Australian Rules in winter and was a keen cricketer in summer. When it came to deciding which football code to give his interest exclusively to, he chose soccer.



● Mick D'Sylva (second from right) at the 1979 Victorian Rothmans Medal dinner with, from left: Steve Blair (Hellas), Michael Loh (Hakoah) and Alan Davidson (Hellas)

## D'Sylva dark horse for Rothmans Medal



Mick D'Sylva

He told you straight to your face what he thought. He also spent time on us individually, which is important."

But D'Sylva's highest accolades are reserved for Bill McArthur, who coached Albion to the Metro First Division championship in 1977.

"He's great. He's the best coach I've played under. He was a real gentleman yet he still always told you things in a no-nonsense fashion. It was under Bill that I established myself at Albion."

Albion first entered State League for the 1978 season. It finished second last but as only the bottom club was relegated then, Albion stayed in the league. For one more season. It's last-place finish in 1979 sent it tumbling back into the Metro First Division. But the club fought its way back into State League for the 1982 season. It has been there since. It's highest ever State League finish was in 1982 when it finished 9th in the newly formed 14-team league. The way things are shaping this year, it's on the cards that Albion will achieve its best ever finish in State League.

"There are no stars at Albion, just a bunch of guys who work their guts out each week. We lost a lot of so-called stars from last year's side but we're doing even better this year. That's because everyone works for each other.

"With so many young guys in the side, the experience of Gerry Reilly and Stuart Gilmore is vital. Stuart's had a great year. He's a top centre half and he's a tremendous winner of the ball. He never knows when to quit. Gerry's the one who gets the lads going. He's always talking out on the field, always geering us up. He's a very, very hard tackler and he's worth so much to our side in midfield."

"Steven Douglas easily is one of the best fullbacks in

State League. He's only 17 but he's got tons of ability. If he really puts his mind to it he could be a star."

"Until this year I'd never been coached by Billy McIntyre. Nevertheless, I'd had a lot of admiration for him as a player. He's still a player to us. We treat him like one of the lads. Maybe that's why the spirit is so good this year."

D'Sylva has been married for the past two years. He works as a pattern maker for the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation.

He's won three runner-up medals at national junior carnivals and best and fairest awards as a junior. Senior honors are scarce.

Perhaps 1985 will change that.

Then again, he might even start his haul of senior honors this season. There are a lot of people at Selwyn Park who reckon that D'Sylva is a dark horse for the 1984 Victorian Rothmans Medal.

## Marshall in Poland

● Former Polonia (Vic) striker Alex Marshall, who claimed to be the biggest soccer player in the world, now is stationed at the Australian embassy in Warsaw as a federal policeman.

He will be there for two years.

Marshall is stationed alongside Vic Janney, former champion player with Polonia, and one-time player-coach of Victoria.

Marshall will act as a talent scout for Polonia, in trying to find adequate replacements for Leszek Dziulakowski and Stefan Milla, who is to return to Poland. He also intends to try out with Legia Warsaw, Gwardia Warszawa and Polonia Warszawa.



Alex Marshall

## Schuster won't play for Beckenbauer

Overseas round-up with PAUL MOON

**Brilliant but moody, Barcelona and West Germany midfielder Bernd Schuster says he will not play for his country while Franz Beckenbauer is national coach.**

The blond linkman was acclaimed the revelation of 1980 European championship, when providing the spark of genius which carried Germany to triumph and prompted Barcelona to pay Cologne \$1,800,000 for his transfer.

Soon afterwards, he declared himself unavailable for international duty as the consequence of a personality clash with Paul Breitner.

After a personal plea from West German federation President Hermann Neuberg, Schuster agreed to appear in the 1982 World Cup finals only for a knee injury to ruin any hopes of glory in Spain for him or, as it transpired, the Germans.

That persistent injury, plus an indifference to Germany's cause, have limited Schuster to just seven caps in the subsequent two years.

● Joe Jordan has returned to England after an unremarkable three-year stint in Italy. Southampton obtained the big Scot from Verona for a comparatively modest fee.

● As a result of incidents following the Yugoslav Cup final, Red Star Belgrade has been fined \$3,500 by its federation, while the club's coach and three players must serve suspensions.

● Manchester United has invited 22-year-old Israeli international midfielder Moshe Sinai to Old Trafford for trials.

● Having completed a one-year suspension for hitting a linesman, Yugoslav international goalkeeper Dragan Pantelic is leaving Bordeaux for Vardar Skopje.

● Striker Dieter Schatzschneider has joined Schalke 04 from Hamburg SV.

● FC Antwerp has appointed former Dutch international Arie Haan as coach.

# NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS 1984

## Victorian Under 14's



## Victorian Under 15's



### Victorian Under 14's

Back Row: Tony Dunkerley (Coach), Scott McDaid (Knox City), Andrew Mazzagetti (Lyndale), John Markovski (Sunshine George Cross), Craig Devonport (Knox City), Marin Radobuljac (Juventus), Bill Romanovski (Altona Gate), Frank Valentic (Melbourne Croatia), George Alevisos (Sunshine George Cross), Ian Petherick (Manager).

Front Row: Damian Mori (Box Hill), Bill Nalpantidis (Lalor), George Lagadinis (Caulfield), Paul Malcolm (Meadow Park), Vincent Salvatore (Waverley City), Guido Avian (Lalor), Lube Ognenovski (Sunshine George Cross), missing, Steven Mautone (Myrtleford).

### Victorian Under 15's

Back Row: Ken Slack (manager), Jimmy Hatzilazrou (Sunshine George Cross), Andrew Marth (Sunshine George Cross), Anthony Grbac (Fawkner), Mark Talajich (Melbourne Croatia), Jack Caran (Melbourne Croatia), Robert Runje (Frankston Pines), George Jolevski (Preston), Alex Eacott (Morwell Falcons), Alan Alexander (Coach).

Front Row: John Markovic (Keilor Austria), Stan Thodis (Heidelberg), Colin Cooper (Altona City), Stephen Brimmer (Doncaster Rovers), Dennis Turner (Dingley), Paul Trimboli (Brighton), Doug Hodgson (Frankston Pines), Alen Susnjara (Melbourne Croatia).

Under 14's Championship Newcastle Sept 1-8

Under 15's Championship Perth Sept 1-8

**Victorian Under 15's are the current Australian Champions**



# ANCORA nubi nel cielo della FSL

**Il cielo della Lega Nazionale sembra addensarsi di nubi con la stessa frequenza del cielo di Melbourne nelle ultime settimane.**

Questa volta si tratta di una mezza rivolta da parte dei 24 club affiliati alla Lega che hanno risposto picche alla richiesta di pagare nelle casse federali altri 100.000 ciascuno per rimediare al mancato arrivo dei soldi promessi come sponsor.

La maggior parte dei club hanno già detto, di un modo o di un altro, che non hanno mezzi né intenzione di fare questo ulteriore sacrificio dopo i tanti imposti dall'inizio dell'anno ad oggi. E i soldi, pur essendo scarsi in giro e quindi rappresentando un serio problema, non sono l'unico punto di divergenza fra i club, la Lega e le varie federazioni.

La struttura della Lega per il prossimo anno è un altro punto della discordia. Tutti sembrano intenzionati a cambiarla, ma nessuno sembra sapere in quale modo migliorare la situazione. Chi parla di abolire la Lega Nazionale completamente e tornare alle Leghe Statali, chi parla di formare una seconda divisione della Lega Nazionale, chi parla di spianare le squadre di Brisbane o le squadre di Adelaide da un girone ed appiopparle all'altro. Nei prossimi giorni ci sarà una riunione della Lega per cercare di chiarire la situazione prendendo una decisione da una serie di raccomandazioni.

Secondo noi però il problema principale è che ormai nessuno crede più che le decisioni prese o da prendersi verranno necessariamente messe in atto, ormai l'andazzo generale è diventato tale che tutti aspettano di settimana in settimana che qualche regolamento venga cambiato, che qualche decisione venga litata, che qualche torneo venga cancellato. E poi tutti si affannano a trovare soluzioni ad un problema creato e reso peggiore dal generale senso di instabilità amministrativa ed organizzativa. Ormai sembra che si cambia tutto per il gusto di cambiare, per il capriccio dei club o dei dirigenti che fanno la voce più grossa, per lo spirito di avventura di gente che non è capace, o non vuole, analizzare i problemi reali del calcio e cercare di correggerli gradualmente nell'ambito di una struttura costante e ben definita.

I "grandi" club vedono le cose soltanto dal loro limitato

punto di vista ed incompaiono i "piccoli" club per la perdita di spettatori e per gli incassi modesti, d'altra parte i piccoli club incolpano i grandi club per cercare di vincere tutti gli argomenti e per voler far la parte del leone. Può darsi che tutte e due le parti abbiano ragione a modo loro, ma è innegabile però che "grandi" e "piccoli" sono nella stessa barca e che quindi dovrebbero redimersi conto che affondarla significherebbe andare a picco tutti assieme. Speriamo che ci sia un ritorno al buon senso e che si possa ritornare al più sano principio di cercare di far progredire il calcio a passi magari lenti ma sicuri, invece di corse suicide.

## La Juventus risale la corrente

La Juventus di Melbourne domenica scorsa ha fatto un altro apprezzabile passo in avanti in classifica con la vittoria di misura sul Brisbane City; i due punti inammati e le sconfitte del JUST e del Brisbane Lions le hanno permesso di tornare in quarta posizione con due punti di distacco da queste altre due contendenti per una poltrona d'onore alla fine del campionato.

La vittoria a spese della squadra italiana di Brisbane è stata molto striminzita e conquistata grazie ad un errore della difesa di casa, ma ciò non toglie che sapere approfittare degli sbagli altrui è alla fine dei conti il modo migliore di andare a rete e vincere partite. Trovatisi in vantaggio dopo poco minuti di gioco la Juventus ha continuato a premere alla ricerca del raddoppio, ma ben presto ha tirato i remi in barca contenta di difendere il risultato.

Il fatto di aver resistito alle pressioni del Brisbane City è, tutto sommato, una ragione in più per essere soddisfatti del comportamento della squadra di Margaris. La difesa bianconera, che era ridotta ad un colabrodo verso la metà del campionato sta ora dimostrando di aver ritrovato una certa solidità. Ed ancora una volta il "piccolo" Cullen ha messo in mostra le sue doti di gigante con una prestazione superlativa. Con la difesa ormai in un nuovo stato di grazia ed il prossimo rientro di Hird e Rogers (ancora un paio

di settimane se tutto va bene), il finale di stagione dovrebbe riservare alcune soddisfazioni per il clan bianconero.

La prossima settimana la Juventus tornerà nuovamente a Brisbane per vedersela con l'osso più duro del Brisbane Lions e non è da escludere un'altra vittoria bianconera, per striminzita che possa essere. Ma però dipenderà dalla condizione fisica di Zinni che domenica scorsa ha dovuto abbandonare a metà tempo perché sofferente da un attacco di influenza. C'è anche da sperare che il centravanti Sweeney riesca a ritrovare la forma dell'inizio di campionato dopo le recenti partite di carburazione in seguito all'operazione ai reni.

Una vittoria della Juventus sul Brisbane Lions avrebbe un effetto molto favorevole sul resto della stagione; i due punti le permetterebbero di aumentare il distacco dal JUST (che dovrebbe perdere contro il S.M. Hellas) e dal Brisbane Lions a quattro lunghezze che significherebbero una maggiore tranquillità per un "posto al sole", e probabilmente, un ritorno di fiamma per la tifoseria che così dovrebbe tornare numerosa a sostenere la squadra del cuore negli incontri successivi contro Heidelberg, Preston, George Cross e Croatia; l'ultima partita di campionato, challenge round il cui accoppiamento verrà deciso secondo la posizione in classifica fra tre settimane, potrebbe anche essere un incontro di cartello contro una delle squadre di prima grandezza del Victoria.

Il risultato di domenica prossima a Brisbane è perciò la chiave che potrebbe aprire la dispensa per un ottimo finale di campionato (ed il torneo a cinque per questa Juventus che all'inizio di stagione sembrava dover stravincere e che poi si è ridotta al ruolo di comprimaria principalmente a causa di una lunga serie di infortuni).

Per ora comunque è doveroso predire atto del modo come la squadra ha saputo rimettersi in corsa dopo le umiliazioni e demoralizzanti sconfitte subite durante il periodo più nero dell'anno; alcune settimane fa la squadra di Margaris sembrava si trovasse sull'orlo del precipizio, invece

## VIVA ITALIA!

with ROCKY DI ZIO

oggi è nuovamente in una posizione decorosa nella quale pochi speravano.

Anche la Juventus di Adelaide ha fatto una provvidenziale impennata domenica scorsa conquistando due punti contro il Green Gully e sollevandosi così dalla palude del fondo classifica; domenica prossima sarà a Melbourne contro un Preston che sta dando segni di ripresa.

L'APIA d'altra parte ha pagato a caro prezzo la vittoria riportata sul Sydney City la settimana scorsa ed è scesa in campo contro il Brisbane Lions senza tre dei suoi giocatori migliori (Bradley, Bertogna e Tredinnick); il capitombolo fatto contro la squadra ospite ha fatto perdere alla squadra di Bottalco anche il secondo posto in classifica poiché il Sydney Olympic è riuscito a battere con lo stesso punteggio di 1-0 l'altra italiana del Marconi.

La squadra di Bossley Park, che può accampare le attese dell'assenza di Henderson e dell'infortunio a Jankevics, si è trovata in serie difficoltà contro i lanciatissimi avversari contro i quali dovrà vedersela nuovamente domenica prossima, e per di più fuori casa.

L'APIA, da parte sua, non può certo nemmeno avere il tempo di leccarsi le ferite per

che domenica scorsa l'aspetta il Sydney City nuovamente. Il prossimo turno sarà perciò fuoco e fiamme per le due squadre italiane di Sydney e potrebbe addirittura compromettere il quinto posto per il Marconi, mentre l'APIA, con quattro punti di vantaggio dai cugini di Bossley Park, almeno non corre questo pericolo.

### Leghe Statali

Nella Lega Statale del N.S.W. l'Inter Monaro resiste ancora in cima alla classifica e con il prossimo turno potrebbe avvantaggiarsi del fatto che le sue due più tenaci inseguitori, Rockdale e Manly, saranno impegnate l'uno contro l'altra.

La vittoria del campionato da parte della squadra italiana viene considerata da molti la cosa migliore che potrebbe succedere sulla scena calcistica in N.S.W. poiché qualificerebbe alla promozione una squadra con un buon seguito ed in una posizione geografica ideale.

Nel campionato del Victoria ormai sembra assodato che il Morwell può considerarsi campione statale dopo la vittoria sul Western Suburbs (2-1) e i cinque punti di distacco che ormai lo separano dalla coppia Polonia e Fawkner.

### Leghe minori

Nella prima divisione il Thomastown si è permesso il lusso di pareggiare con il Kew Park Rangers ed ugualmente restare al comando della classifica con un punto di vantaggio sullo Springvale; tutte e due le squadre hanno la promozione in Lega Statale assicurata poiché la terza squadra, il North Dandenong, è molto distanziata; la volata finale per lo scudetto si limita perciò fra queste due squadre e il Thomastown sembra avere tutte le carte in regola per tagliare il traguardo in prima posizione.

Altra squadra italiana che può aspirare alla vittoria di campionato è il Dallas City, nella terza divisione della Lega Provisionale, che è ancora prima in classifica dopo la brillante vittoria su una delle dirette avversarie, il Seaford.

Nella quarta divisione della Lega Metropolitana l'East Brunswick Abruzzo è tornato alla vittoria contro il Rosebud, ma è ormai calato fuori dalle prime due posizioni e dalla promozione. Per la Triestina, nella terza divisione, esiste ancora qualche tenue speranza di promozione se nelle prossime due settimane riuscirà a rimontare i due punti che la separano dal Richmond: im-

presa questa non facile ma nemmeno impossibile. Nella quarta divisione della Lega Provisionale il Westall continua a guidare la classifica sull'Ascot Vale ed ha quindi intatte le possibilità di vincere campionato e promozione.

## Dakos for Red Star

From page one

There were never enough hours in a day for games with the ball and for this youngster from Australia it was important to learn the skills of the game the best way he could. Bouncing the ball off walls and playing on the sun-drenched beaches of Lakonikos was his favorite pastime.

At the age of nine and with the skills which had a rare degree of proficiency for his age, Tony was on his way back to Australia.

He was soon to join APIA juniors, since his home was just opposite Lambert Park. At the age of 12 he was coached by John Doyle, according to Dakos an excellent coach and the man who later coached him at Ashfield Boys High. Doyle, an Australian international, was not confined to teaching football only. He was an Ashfield High maths teacher.

Sydney Olympic signed this exciting prospect a few years later. At the age of 16 he was on the doorstep of first-team selection but had little luck in convincing either Tommy Docherty or Doug Collins that he was any better than a very good second grader. In fairness to both coaches, it was difficult to discard a New Zealand representative from the side to make way for Dakos.

Then came an abrupt end for Collins at Olympic and in came Ljubo Gokovic who was coaching Dakos at youth level. In fact three youngsters from the youth side walked into the first team almost immediately after the arrival of Gokovic.

This tall player with skill to burn in both feet was a "must" according to Gokovic. In fact Gokovic, Akoutas and Tony Dakos were the stars of the Sydney Olympic side the day Olympic wiped out St George at Pratten Park by four goals, with Akoutas completely out-playing Dez Martin.

The World Youth Cup brought out some fine fighting qualities from this youngster as well as outstanding anticipation for a player of his age. Performances by many a player in that Australian team were praised but few have realised the potential of Dakos.

But four minutes later Liborio bounced back with an equaliser scored by striker Mark Gibson who dribbled past three Papuan defenders and rammed a stiff shot home.

Papua New Guinea came back on top of the situation in the 36th minute when midfielder Mark Pys sent a through pass to right flanker Plesse Quasie who lifted the ball past onrushing Liborian goalkeeper Roy Cooper. Indonesian left back Malsio drew 2-2 in a group "A" match.

The Indonesians played well below the form which took them to a 5-1 victory over Thailand last Wednesday and saw their lead twice cancelled out by the Malaysians.

The Indonesians put Indonesia into the lead in the 20th minute when he burst through the Malaysian defence to fire home a cross from winger Adjat Soedjat.

The home team, showing better coordination after this setback, forced the Indonesians into defence and scored through striker Zulkifli Hamzah.

In the 63rd minute, Indonesian defence Suro brought Hassan Sali down in the box and Zainal equalised.

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## FORZA JUVE!



The Canberra high schools side, back row left to right: John Milazic (Phillip College and Croatia Denkin SC), George Panagakis (Stirling and Narrabundah SC), Manis Lemond (Copeland College and Canberra Arrows), Viato Burnan (Erindale and Croatia Denkin SC), Vic Fernandez (Dickson and Canberra Arrows), Peter Miazic (Daramalan and Canberra Arrows), Phil Jancuski (Dickson and Canberra Arrows), Peter De Ponte (Dickson and Donner Olympic), Paul Feichmayr (St. Edmund), Les Bee (A. C. S. S. Director of Coaching). Front row: John Nelson (Phillip College and Belconnen SC), Michael Mendez (Marist Brothers and Canberra Arrows), Matthew Godfrey (Stirling and Belconnen SC), Frank Giornazzo (Dickson and Canberra Arrows), Alan Dunn (Hawker and Belconnen SC), Michael McGready (Daramalan and Belconnen SC), Gray Charlton (Dickson College and Donner Olympic SC).

## SCHOOLS ON THE RISE

High school soccer in the national Canberra is on the crest of a wave — already the strongest of all the junior representative football codes.

That's the firm belief of David Sheridan, the manager of Canberra's under-19 high school team — current holder of the Commonwealth Bank-sponsored National High Schools' Championship.

To back up his claim, Sheridan, himself a high school teacher, said Canberra now had 20

teams in the year 7/8 competition — and 42 more teams in the year 7/10 competition, plus eight colleagues also now fielding soccer teams in the 16 to 18 years-old age group.

"The number of teams has increased some 25 to 30 percent over the past four years," he said.

Sheridan will manage Canberra's high school side in this year's national tournament being held in Hobart from September 2 to 7.

PETER WINDSOR



The South Australian under 15 State team, left to right, back row: coach George McMillan, Craig Donnelly Dino Arturo, Danny Ianella, Chris Gretsas, Richard Sparreboom, Jim Koufalis, Gary McCleod, Darren Woolf, and trainer Des Thompson. Front: manager George Docherty, Mark Miller, Darren Gardiner, Steve Koutsouvelis, Captain Brett Thompson, Jeff Ellis, Steffen Ordish, and Nick Wilson.

## Adelaide clubs on \$2000 bond

A National League tribunal has placed Adelaide City and West Adelaide on \$2000 bonds until the end of the 1985 season.

The tribunal also fined West Adelaide coach Sam Salabasis \$500 and placed him on a \$500 bond until the end of 1985 for remonstrating with a linesman after a West goal had been disallowed.

Adelaide City vice-captain Sergio Melta

also had received his second goal and was fined \$400.

The tribunal, comprising NSL general manager Stefan Kamanaz, NSL acting chairman Tony Labbozetta and vice-president Tony Kovac, met at City's Kensington Park clubrooms where they viewed video tape of the incidents.

The club penalties were imposed for breaches of crowd control after supporters twice stopped play by invading the pitch during the local derby at Olympic Sports Field

## AROUND THE WORLD

**MERDEKA CUP**  
KUALA LUMPUR — Papua New Guinea shocked Liberia 2-1 in a group "A" match on the fifth day of the annual Merdeka Tournament.

Playing skilful soccer, the pint-sized Papua New Guineans surprised the taller Liberians with a 19th minute goal through left flanker Kasevi Papei who slammed a loose ball into the roof of the net.

But four minutes later Liborio bounced back with an equaliser scored by striker Mark Gibson who dribbled past three Papuan defenders and rammed a stiff shot home.

Papua New Guinea came back on top of the situation in the 36th minute when midfielder Mark Pys sent a through pass to right flanker Plesse Quasie who lifted the ball past onrushing Liborian goalkeeper Roy Cooper.

Indonesian left back Malsio drew 2-2 in a group "A" match.

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The home team, showing better coordination after this setback, forced the Indonesians into defence and scored through striker Zulkifli Hamzah.

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**THE BIG CHALLENGE IS  
ON THIS WEEKEND  
SATURDAY SEPT 1 & SUNDAY SEPT 2**



**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**



*Jim McDonough  
(Brisbane Lions)*

**BRISBANE LIONS  
V  
JUVENTUS**

**Richlands Sunday 3 pm**  
Previous NSL results  
Juventus 1 win

**FOOTSCRAY**

**V  
SOUTH MELBOURNE**

**Schintler Reserve Sunday 3 pm**  
South Melbourne 9 wins  
Footscray 1 win  
4 draws



*Graham Tutill  
(Footscray)*



*Lou Denys  
(Green Gully)*

**GREEN GULLY  
V  
BRISBANE CITY**

**Gully Reserve Sunday 3 pm**  
Previous NSL results  
Green Gully 1 win

**MELBOURNE CROATIA  
V  
HEIDELBERG**

**Olympic Park No. 1  
Sunday 3 pm**  
Previous NSL results  
Heidelberg 1 win  
1 draw



*Tony Curcio  
(Melbourne Croatia)*



*Ian Dobson  
(Preston)*

**PRESTON  
V  
ADELAIDE CITY**

**Connor Reserve Sunday 3 pm**  
Previous NSL results  
Preston 4 wins  
Adelaide City 2 wins 1 draw

**WEST ADELAIDE  
V  
SUNSHINE  
GEORGE CROSS**

**Hindmarsh Sunday 2.30pm**  
Previous NSL results  
West Adelaide 1 win



*Steve Papadopoulos  
(West Adelaide)*

**AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE**



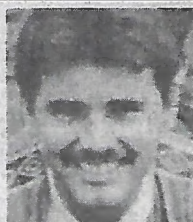
*Cliff Pointer  
(Blacktown)*

**MELITA EAGLES  
V  
BLACKTOWN**

**Melita Stadium Sunday 3 pm**  
Previous NSL results  
Melita Eagles 1 win

**ST. GEORGE  
V  
NEWCASTLE**

**St. George Stadium  
Sunday 3 pm**  
Previous NSL results St. George 5 wins  
Newcastle 5 wins 1 draw



*Derek Todd  
(Newcastle)*



*Murray Barnes  
(Sydney City)*

**SYDNEY CITY  
V  
LEICHHARDT**

**Sydney Athletic Field 3 pm Sunday**  
Previous NSL results  
Sydney City 6 wins  
Leichhardt 4 wins, 2 draws

**SYDNEY CROATIA  
V  
PENRITH**

**King Tomislav Park  
Sunday 3 pm**  
Previous NSL results  
2 draws



*Ivan Kartelo  
(Sydney Croatia)*



*Bruce James  
(Marconi)*

**SYDNEY OLYMPIC  
V  
MARCONI**

**Pratten Park Sunday 3 pm**  
Previous NSL results Marconi 5 wins  
Sydney Olympic 3 wins 5 draws

**WOLLONGONG  
V  
CANBERRA ARROWS**

**Dapto Showgrounds  
Saturday 7.30 pm**  
Previous NSL results Canberra 5 wins  
Wollongong 2 wins



*Andrew Young  
(Canberra)*